Customs revenue collections up $3M. PAGE 7
Park recognized by civil engineering publication. PAGE 9

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 169

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July boosts CNMI arrivals past the total in FY 2016

» Visitor arrivals up 25 percent in July

Visitors arrivals to the Marianas jumped 25 percent in July 2017 compared to July 2016. Total visits to the Marianas have reached 541,152 this fiscal year, already surpassing total arrivals of 501,489 last year, with two months remaining in the fiscal year.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 59,463 visitors in July 2017, compared to 47,736 visitors received in July 2016. This marks the third highest July monthly arrivals in Marianas history, the record being in July 1997. Overall, visitor arrivals are 32 percent higher so far this fiscal year compared to the same period last year.

See JULY on Page 4

Gold Mantis fined $192K

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A construction subcontractor that was hired to help build the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan has been slapped with a hefty fine after failing to meet requirements essential to renewing their service provider licenses.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission agreed to accept the stipulated resolution that imposes a $192,000 fine on Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC for failing to submit essential requirements previously agreed

See GOLD on Page 4

Investigators rule woman's death in fall was accidental

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police investigators have ruled as accidental the death of 62-year-old Alicia I. Quitugua, who fell from the third floor of a three-story building across the Tanapag Middle School last Friday afternoon.

A source disclosed yesterday that Department of Public Safety detectives did not request for an autopsy because they have determined her fall to be an accident.

Investigators, however,

See INVESTIGATORS on Page 4

Man allegedly burglarizes truck at Forbidden Island

» Intoxicated suspect allegedly panicked and was injured after triggering truck's alarm

Peter

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An intoxicated teenager sustained cuts in his arm when he allegedly stole a bag from a truck that was parked in the trail parking area of the Forbidden Island Lookout in Kagman last Friday afternoon.

Maypeace Fujita Peter, 18, had small cuts in his right arm when he reached inside a pickup truck's window to take the purse, police said. It was alleged that he shattered the truck's window with a rock.

See MAN on Page 4

ORNAMENENTAL LAMPPOST
The Saipan Mayor's Office puts up its first of many lightpost ornamentals on Beach Road. The flowers are to be maintained under the office's "Adopt a Post" project that will be open to the public as soon as the orders of ornamental containers arrive on island.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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It was a tale of two Trumps in the desert Southwest.
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The most powerful typhoon to hit Hong Kong in more than half a century killed12.
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Police in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam detain the driver of a van.
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Local

LibDay Queen represents NMI at Japanese festival

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com1
REPORTER

Peyton Gomez, the 2017 Liberation Day Queen, is set to travel to Nagoya, Japan today to represent the island of Saipan in one of Japan's biggest festivals.

Nagoya is home to the Hisaya Odori Park. The park is where the Nippon Domonnaka Festival is annually held, one of Japan's biggest festivals.

According to Nippon Domannaka Festival executive managing director Koichi Mizuno, the festival, which was started by a student, has been held every summer for 19 years.

The festival has become one of the most anticipated events in Japan every year and has "been expanding beyond our imagination," Mizuno said.

This year, Mizuno invited Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang to the festival to honor the successful relationship between the Commonwealth and Japan.

According to Mizuno, it is through the tremendous efforts of the tourism industries on island that Japan's Domatsuri dancers have been participating in the island's Liberation Day festival since 2003.

In place of Apatang, the island's 2017 Liberation Day Queen, Peyton Gomez, will be representing the island.

The festival will start today, Aug. 25, and will carry on until Sunday, Aug. 27.

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Babauta: SHEFA has so far lost over $0.5 million

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program has lost over half a million dollars in just two months after the poker extension bill was killed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

During yesterday's SHEFA board meeting, SHEFA chair Oscar Babauta informed the board members that, as of this month, the defeat of the bill that would have given poker arcades more time to relocate has already cost them over $500,000 and the number will only continue to go up.

From an annual $8.4 million appropriated to SHEFA from the gaming machine tax, the program would now only get a little over $7.5 million, Babauta said.

The number is not final, as it will continue to lessen and a number will only be finalized after the relocation deadline.

It was learned at the meeting that the poker industry on Saipan has already lost over 90 gaming machines.

As of last week, the number of registered gaming machines went from 726 to 633, which means 93 gaming machines whose licenses to operate were not renewed, Babauta said.

Babauta is sure that the number of gaming machines will only continue to fall. The exact numbers of machines lost will be finalized by November after the relocation deadline in October.

Under the law, all poker arcades on Saipan have to be relocated to a central location by October 2017. The Zoning Office is tasked with identifying a place for the relocation. Many poker arcade owners have tried to push this deadline, to no avail.

Babauta, along with SHEFA board members, are scurrying to find an alternate source of funding for their program, the sooner the better.

To combat the loss in funding, Babauta said that he is working with the Legislature to pass a resolution allocating $1.5 million from the Saipan casino's Business Gross Received Tax to SHEFA.

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) was the author of the resolution that wants SHEFA to be included as one of the recipients of the BGRT funding.

Although Babauta is grateful for this effort, he actually eyes $3 million from the casino's BGRT because it is uncertain how long the poker industry will remain and how many machines will be left after the relocation period is over in October.

"The problem now is that we don't know how long the poker industry will survive, or whether or not they will reduce he number of machines should they relocate," said Babauta.

He is not hoping for the best but, according to him, the poker industry may not even recover.

"I'm not too optimistic about them surviving more than they are doing now," said Babauta.

As of Aug. 23, SHEFA has already rewarded a total of $729,800 to 892 students for the fall semester.

SHEFA's mission is to ensure funding to assist the upcoming generations who wish to pursue a higher education but do not have the money to do so.

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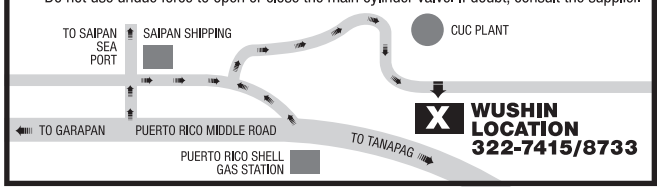

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CHCC urges public to consult primary care physicians

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. suspended its non-emergent surgical care effective Aug. 16, while a malpractice suit—where the CNMI government and two former CHCC doctors stand as defendants—is pending in Superior Court.

The Superior Court earlier ruled that provisions of the Government Liability Act are unconstitutional.

While the non-emergent surgical care is not available at the hospital, CHCC CEO Esther Muna said, "individuals should continue to communicate with their primary care physician for their care, including discussing their needs for surgical care."

A primary care physician is a health professional who practices general medicine. Most primary care physicians are doctors and usually the first stop for medical care. They may oversee an individual's healthcare needs, help patients make decisions related to treatment, or refer the patient to other specialists if needed.

The suspension of non-emergent surgical care at CHCC emerged from the malpractice lawsuit filed by Remedio Elameto and Pedro Pua against the the CNMI government and doctors Gary Ramsey and Rajee Iyer.

Elameto and Pua claimed medical malpractice, bad faith, and emotional distress and loss of consortium.

Elameto claims that a surgical team at CHC left a surgical clamp inside her abdomen during surgery to address her irregular period and ovarian cysts in August 2000. The clamp was discovered in June 2014, almost 14 years and removed at Guam Memorial Hospital.

The CHCC surgical staff indicated to Muna after court decision came out on Aug. 14 that they were unwilling to perform surgical procedures, as the risk of liability is to great without protection. CHCC is the only hospital on Saipan.

Free medical outreach on Sunday

The Dalaw Kalinga Foundation will be hosting a free medical outreach on Sunday, Aug. 27, at the Garapan basketball court across the Carolinian Utt.

The free services that will be provided during the outreach include blood sugar and blood pressure checks, body massage/reflex, facial cleansing, haircut, eye screening, reading eyeglass (for the first 50 individuals), snacks, giveaways, and counseling/ prayer for the sick.

The event is a community service offered by the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Saipan. For additional information, contact pastor Claire Javillonar at 789-7566. ***(PR)***

GOLD

From Page 1

upon to extend its license.

The stipulated resolution, which both parties have agreed to, provides that Gold Mantis would submit within 60 days after their renewal date, which was last Aug. 8, 2017, the requirements and pay the fine to remain compliant with its license.

"They have not necessarily violated other provisions other than those," said Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

According to Deleon Guerrero, those that wish to participate in the U.S. casino industry must first secure a license from the regulatory body for that jurisdiction, in this case the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

"It is our opinion that [Gold Mantis] has been proceeding with sincerity and they are doing their very best to comply with the required regulations. [The fine] only settles [the dispute] as we speak but it also allows them to correct some of the deficiencies. We would be visiting them again once they have submitted their application," he said.

Tiberius Mocanu, representing Gold Mantis, said the construction company is diligently "moving forward transparently and in good faith."

"Gold Mantis has every intention to be a good licensee and good corporate citizen here in the CNMI," Mocanu said in yesterday's meeting of the casino commission.

"Their issues with labor—both CNMI and federal—and with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are issues that are not related to us," said Deleon Guerrero.

He added that Gold Mantis and the commission have an understanding throughout negotiations that the former must resolve their labor issues before the commission would move further with the construction companies' license.

Mocanu said that Gold Mantis is the first company to have sent all of its foreign workers home after reaching a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor earlier this year.

He added that, of the 43 remaining workers, the six that claim to be Gold Mantis workers are not their employees.

"Gold Mantis did not admit that; however, all six were flown [back to China] last week," said Mocanu. "Gold Mantis went out of its pocket even though it did not believe those workers were their workers, in an effort to get them home."

According to Mocanu, the six were workers of the subcontractor of Gold Mantis.

"Since the DOL said the workers were [employees of Gold Mantis], Gold Mantis felt it necessary to do the right thing and sent them home last week," he added.

The commission executive director said the fine would go into the general fund.

The commission unanimously confirmed the stipulated resolution during yesterday's meeting.

INVESTIGATORS

From Page 1

are still looking at the possibility of neglect on the part of a person, the source said.

The source opted to withhold for the moment the information that led to the findings that her fall was an accident.

Chief Prosecutor Michele Harris confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* last night that police investigation indeed concluded that there was no reason to request for an autopsy.

Harris said that Quitugua's family was informed late yesterday that the body will be released.

Quitugua was a tenant of the D. Sebastian Building, where she lived on the third floor. *Saipan Tribune* learned that she lived in the unit with her son and his wife.

Police said Quitugua's body was found on the ground of the building with no pulse and not breathing.

MAN

From Page 1

Peter, also known as Tin Tin, allegedly smelled of alcohol and was also found in possession of marijuana leaves.

Police recovered the victim's small bag containing multiple bracelets, a necklace, a ring, and her identification cards.

Peter, who admitted burglarizing the truck, led the police to where he threw the bag in a jungle area in Kagman.

Peter was then released as police did a follow-up investigation, but re-arrested him on Wednesday night in Kagman on charges of burglary, theft, illegal possession of a controlled substance, and minor consuming alcohol.

His bail was set yesterday at $10,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Aug. 29.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was named Peter's counsel.

Burglarized was a 2017 Toyota Tundra Crew cab pickup truck. Its rear passenger side window was shattered. The purse owned by the car owner's was stolen from the vehicle. The purse reportedly contained jewelry, two iPhone 6 units, and $60, all worth $7,000. In addition, there were military identification cards and other identification cards of the victim.

The victim told police that she and her sister and a female friend, who owns the truck, arrived at the Forbidden Island Lookout last Friday, Aug. 18, at 4pm or 4:30pm to go hiking. When they came back from their hike at 6pm or 6:30pm, a police sergeant told them that their truck had been burglarized.

The police sergeant had responded to the Forbidden Island Lookout after receiving a call about the burglary. A witness said he and several tourists were at the Lookout when they heard a car alarm go off. They then saw a man, later identified as Peter, running away from the truck with a woman's purse.

A witness aboard a tour bus followed Peter, who was walking down the gravel road from the Forbidden Island Lookout. Two other responding police officers later found and secured Peter near the Kagman fire station. All stolen items were recovered.

Peter told police that he had consumed six cans of beer alone and proceeded to Forbidden Island to steal money.

Peter said he threw a rock at the rear window of the truck and reached into the broken window and took the purse. He said he panicked because he triggered the car's alarm when he tried to open the car's door.

The defendant told police that ran toward Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, where he threw the purse. He then walked toward the Kagman fire station, where police saw and arrested him.

JULY

From Page 1

"It's turning out to be a phenomenal year for tourist arrivals, and that's something the government, the private sector, and the community can all take pride in for our united efforts to support the industry," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "While certain critical international and national influences on tourism remain outside our control, we can also see that it's a proven winning solution to keep the hotel occupancy tax reserved for the MVA to continue to strengthen the industry, to use those funds efficiently and effectively under the leadership of our board, and to work together with the community to solve tourism problems and take advantage of new opportunities."

Arrivals from Korea continued their double-digit upward trajectory, jumping 42 percent to 29,941 visitors. Arrivals to the Marianas from Korea are up 73 percent overall this fiscal year, driven by the stable supply of air seats.

As of July 2017, one national flag carrier and four low-cost carriers—Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air, T'way and Eastar Jet—provide Incheon-Saipan flight services, while Asiana Airlines and Jeju Air also offer flights between Busan and Saipan.

Continuous growth of Korean visitors is expected as Jeju Air has confirmed that it will have four times weekly Busan-Saipan services until March 2018.

Arrivals from China grew 19 percent compared to July 2016 to 23,207 visitors. With the launch of new scheduled charter flight service from Hangzhou and seasonal charter flight from Changchun and Nanchang to Saipan in July, visitor arrivals are expected to continue to increase for the remainder of the year.

Also, as summer vacation arrives, parents are more likely to take their children travelling. Promotional seminars with Biketo in Guangzhou and Dynasty Holiday Saipan Globe Hotel EB-5 road shows in Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing will also increase the awareness of the Marianas and encourage more Chinese to visit Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Arrivals from Japan were at 3,385 visitors in July, 19 percent lower versus July 2016.

With Delta Air Lines' single daily flight from Tokyo-Narita, airlift remains a key challenge for this important market. Heavily discounted travel packages available to Hawaii and Guam via Air Asia X and T'way, respectively, also make Saipan packages comparatively higher. Delta has added Saipan to their ongoing beach resort promotional campaign beginning in July, which includes promotions to Hawaii, Palau and Guam.

Japan arrivals are expected to stabilize, although the MVA remains cautious in its projections due to various factors that continue to affect this critical market.

Delta has also announced plans to use larger aircraft beginning mid-November 2017 through March 2018, adding 24 additional daily seats, which should increase overall arrivals from Japan.

Economic highlights

The Korean government has approved a record hike in the minimum wage next year, an increase of 16.4 percent, up by 1,060 won to 7,530 won. It is the first time the minimum wage has risen by more than 1,000 over a year.

The average USD/won exchange rate in July was 1,139.33 won, a slight increase from the rate of 1,123.56 won in June.

Consumer price in Japan rose 0.4 percent year-on-year in June 2017, the same as in the prior two months and matching market consensus. Japanese companies continue to face severe labor shortages, with job availability improving further in June to the tightest level in over four decades while the unemployment rate declined. The jobless rate, meanwhile, fell to 2.8 percent in June from 3.1 percent the previous month.

Bank of Japan left its key short-term interest rate unchanged at -0.1 percent at its July 2017 meeting, as widely expected. The monthly average rate for U.S. dollar to Japanese yen exchange in July 2017 was 112.34, up compared to 110.83 in June.

In the first half of 2017, the per capita consumption expenditure of Chinese citizens was RMB 8,834, which reflects an actual growth rate of 6.1 percent compared to the same period in 2016, after deducting the price factor. According to online travel company TUNIU, during the first half of 2017 the top 10 island destinations were Phuket, Bali, Maldives, Saipan, Boracay, Sabah, Koh Samui, Nha Trang, Mauritius, and Fiji. High-end travelers favored the resorts in Mauritius and Fiji over the other eight listed destinations. ***(MVA)***

CUC schedules power outages

There will be a power outage in Garapan today, Aug. 25, Friday, from 9am to 1pm, to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace three 100KVA transformers with three 37.5 KVA pole mounted transformers.

Areas affected by today's power interruption are Kadena di Amor and Chichirica Avenue in Garapan. This is part of the ongoing program to improve the efficiency of power distribution throughout Saipan.

Tomorrow, Aug. 26, there will be a power interruption on Beach Road from 5:30am to 10:30am, from Triple J Motors south to the traffic light by Atkins Kroll Toyota.

Wastewater lifts station to be affected is S-12 and traffic light affected is San Jose (near Atkins Kroll Toyota).

This will allow CUC line crew to safely four wooden power poles with concrete poles along Beach Road. This is part of an ongoing hazard mitigation project that involves the replacement of 787 wooden poled with concrete poles.

A total of 303 wooden poles have already been replaced with concrete ones and there are still 484 poles that need to be replaced.

There will also be a power outage on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017, from 9am to 12pm to allow CUC line crew to relocate the main primary power pole and primary line along Isa Drive on Capital Hill.

The relocation work is required to be performed for the proposed Cross Island Road Improvement Phase 3 Project.

Areas to be affected include Haat Pl., Deloitte building, Mate Drive, Hafno Street, and Sagua Drive—all on Capital Hill.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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Torres signs five bills into law

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted last week several bills, majority of which are House bills.

Over the weekend, Torres signed House Bill 20-92 into Public Law 20-06, which allows the Public School System to reprogram funding obtained in last year's supplemental appropriations amounting $10 million and use it to fund the Early Head Start and Head Start Center.

The issue came about after Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero wrote to Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) requesting flexibility in programming the supplemental appropriations received last year.

Hofschneider drafted a bill to address the issue; however, it got retracted since the bill was considered an appropriation bill, which means it should emanate from the House of Representatives.

It fell upon Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) to author the House equivalent of Hofschneider's bill that is now law.

Torres also enacted House Bill 20-45 HD1, which establishes new public highways—Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kannat Tabla on Saipan.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) authored the bill to establish Route 324, also known as Laulau Bay Drive, to connect it to Route 31, or Isa Drive and Route 34, or Kagman Road.

Route 325, also known as Kannat Tabla Drive, was established to connect to Route 31, or Isa Drive, and Route 30, or Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

The governor also signed a Tinian local bill as well as two Rota local bills into laws.

Tinian, through Tinian Local Law 20-03, would be appropriated $2 million. Some $1.2 million would restore the 25 percent cut in the pensions of retirees and survivors; $485,000 is to address the third and final payment of the $1.35 million loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust and already includes interest; the remaining $315,000 is to supplement "any shortfall in revenue" for locally funded personnel, operations, professional services, and public programs under the Tinian Mayor's Office, the Tinian Municipal Treasurer, and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Rota Local Laws 20-03 and RLL 20-04. RLL 20-03 appropriated $30,749 to the senatorial district; $1,000 is appropriated to the Rota Municipal Council while the remainder was funneled toward the Rota Casino Gaming Commission.

RLL 20-04 appropriates $88,469.75 to the construction of walkways in Songsong and Sinapalo.

Ukulele class at public library

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library intermediate ukulele classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017. It is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is $50. Ukulele classes are held at the library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and Kui Lee.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on first come, first paid. Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Parents/Guardians must sign a liability waiver form.

For questions, call Celina Foreman at 235-7315 / 7322 during regular library hours. ***(PR)***

5 Facts about
Sugar Sweetened Beverages
1
A typical 20-ounce soda has 250 calories, which would take 5 miles of walking — or 50 minutes of running — for a 110-pound adolescent to burn off. This means to burn the calories from one soda, a child would need to walk from San Vicente to Capitol Hill on Saipan.
2
Containing almost 17 teaspoons of sugar in every 20-ounce serving, sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sugar in the American diet.
3
A child's risk for obesity increases an average of 60 percent with every additional daily serving of soda.
4
Most sugar sweetened beverages offer little or no nutritional value
5
Those who consume sugary drinks regularly 1 to 2 cans a day or more have a 26% greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes than people who rarely have such drinks.
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For more information in the CNMI, contact the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program at (670) 236-8719. This ad was brought to you by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Diabetes Prevention and Control Program under the Division of Public Health Non Communicable Disease Bureau with 100% federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Sources: kickthecan.org • publichealthadvocacy.org • Boston Public Health Commission

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Then ask for the Family Planning Program. or make an appointment at CHCC Women's Clinic or just walk in.

Hours are M-F from 8:00am to 4:00pm (excluding holidays)

CHCC Title X Family Planning Services • Hours: 8:00am to 4:00pm • Monday through Friday
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The CNMI Family Planning Program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs, Title X

Customs revenue collections up $3M

Division of Customs director Jose Mafnas announced another significant increase in revenue collections and fiscal year improvements between 2016 and 2017 following upgrades to detection equipment and operations.

"When comparing revenue collection from fiscal year 2016 to 2017, the months of October to August collections have moved up to $3 million," he said.

Mafnas notes that since his last reporting in mid-July, detections and collections of outstanding accounts have increased.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson states that the current amount of revenue collection from October to July 2017 amounts to a total of $39.5 million, with one month left in fiscal year 2017 to take into account.

"Our revenue collections from the Division of Customs have increased every fiscal year and with one more month left, revenue collection has increased to just over 8 percent. In these months of [fiscal year] 2016, we collected $36.4 million and in [fiscal year] 2017, $39.5 million has been collected," Larson said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres commended the Division of Customs on its continued progress.

"The numerous upgrades to customs equipment and training of our officers have been very positive. I applaud all the hardworking inspectors and detection units for their continued commitment. These improvements and successes have not gone unnoticed and we extend our appreciation to your continued safeguarding of our islands and the improvement of our economy," Torres said. ***(PR)***

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific, together with United Airlines, sponsored the "ONE Marianas Movie & Music Night" last Aug. 12 at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific announced yesterday the commercial launch of its full range of fixed and mobile services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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Docomo Pacific launches suite of new services

Docomo Pacific announced yesterday the commercial launch of its full range of fixed and mobile services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to a Docomo Pacific statement, these new products and services "offer choice and value across the CNMI, allowing our customers to connect to the widest 4G LTE network in the Marianas."

Docomo Pacific said its range of services will allow its customers to experience triple-digit online speeds of up to 100 Mbps, watch high-definition TV channels, and enjoy TiVo—the state-of-the-art television entertainment system.

» Docomo announces $500,000 community investment

To celebrate the CNMI debut of these new products and services, Docomo Pacific, together with United Airlines, sponsored the "ONE Marianas Movie & Music Night" last Aug. 12 at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field on Saipan and on Aug. 19 at the AMB Amphitheater on Tinian.

These events featured the 2016 Island Music Award-winning group "The Dolls" from Guam, as well as local artists, in addition to a free outdoor movie for families to enjoy along with free food, drinks and giveaways.

The final installment of the "ONE Marianas Movie & Music Night" will be held on Aug. 26 at the Roundhouse on Rota.

In keeping with the spirit of being one with the community, Docomo Pacific will make $500,000 worth of investments in the areas of education, healthcare, and public safety in the CNMI.

Docomo Pacific is already in discussions with education, healthcare, and public safety professionals to determine the most pressing community needs.

As part of the investment, Docomo Pacific plans to improve telemedicine in the Marianas, help close the "homework gap" by giving children expanded access to computers and online services, and use technology to ensure a safer environment.

Jonathan Kriegel, president and chief executive officer of Docomo Pacific, said, "Being one with our island community is part of the foundation of Docomo Pacific. We are excited that our new ATISA submarine fiber-optic cable system allows us to offer choice and help invest in critical areas in education, healthcare, and public safety. We look forward to working with our government partners to bring these services to the people of the Marianas."

Dino Manning, vice president and general manager of Docomo Pacific in the CNMI, said that the company is "ready to connect our customers to the things that matter most, with the launch of our online, mobile, TV, and home phone services. Offering this new customer experience has been a long but worthwhile journey that we are excited to share with the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. We invite everyone to join us for the "ONE Marianas Movie & Music Night" this coming Saturday, Aug. 26 on Rota to help us mark the launch of these new services, and to celebrate this investment in our people and local communities." ***(PR)***

Park recognized by nat'l civil engineering publication

Photo shows an aerial view of the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The transformation of the former Puerto Rico dump into the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park has garnered international attention by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The ASCE represents more than 150,000 members of the civil engineering profession in 177 countries and stands at the forefront of engineering with specific emphasis on protecting and restoring the natural environment.

The article, titled "Landfill transformed into Peace Park," was written by Dr. Catherine Cardno and highlighted the peace park as a successful Brownfield reclamation project. A Brownfield is an abandoned or underutilized industrial facility.

Cardno noted that the former landfill is now a "highly visible and inviting destination," which serves as a model of compliance to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that the planning and execution of the peace park was monumental, despite the many obstacles in redeveloping it.

"The former Puerto Rico landfill is a testament to successful engineering and renews our commitment to eliminating pollution and preserving our environment. I commend the Capital Improvement Program, our federal partners, the engineering team, and the contractors for advocating the improvement of our infrastructure and their stewardship toward solving this issue," Torres said.

The landfill grew to a 90-foot mound containing an estimated 1.75 million cubic yards of waste until its eventual closure in 2003.

The $27.2-million project was completed last March. It has now been transformed into a parkland featuring the installation of a thick liner system and an extensive storm-water drainage and tribar revetment protection system.

Paul Baron, P.E., who served as the principal of the project, cited the magnitude of structural engineering and construction management involved in the park's completion.

Baron also noted the site's prominent features such as walking paths, landscaping, and pavilions, where visitors can view sunsets over the Philippine Sea and Pacific Ocean along the western lagoon.

CIP administrator Virginia Villagomez noted that the passive park illustrates what can be achieved when federal and territorial governments work collaboratively to solve a longstanding community problem.

"As we continue to improve our infrastructure and economy, we have drastically reduced and mitigated the contaminated water into the lagoon, protected the slopes from erosion, continue to collect and safely vent landfill gas, and provided public access while meeting full compliance with the EPA's requirements," Villagomez said. ***(PR)***

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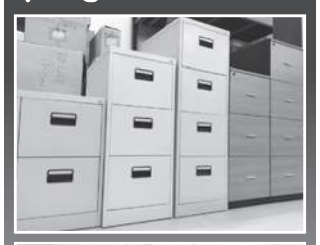

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MCS holds annual Student Activities Fair

Members of Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club are ready for a year full of stage and film productions. From left to right: Justin Ocampo, Quincy Chinen, Reica Ramirez, and Angelo Manese.
MCS

Junior high and high school students fill up the first floor hallway of Mount Carmel School's Maturana Building during the annual Student Activities Fair.
MCS

Almost 300 middle school and high school students participated in Mount Carmel School's annual Student Activities Fair held this past Wednesday, Aug. 23, in the first floor hallway of the school's Maturana Building.

Held at the start of every school year and sponsored by the Student Council, the fair highlights the many extra-curricular activities available at the school.

Throughout the fair, middle school and high school students perused the booths of sponsoring clubs and organizations in order to learn more about the various activities and to sign up for those that interest them.

Student Council president, Erika Mendiola, was very happy with the turnout at this year's fair.

"While we had a lot more students than last year, it went very smoothly and everyone was satisfied with the clubs that were offered," she said.

Recognizing that the school tries to allow students to experience different activities, "students have the opportunity to find another hobby, instead of being stuck in one," she added.

This year's fair included booths from the school's athletic teams, Red Cross Club, Theatre Club, Gamers Uknighted (a club for gamers), and two new clubs, a Computer Coding Club and VOX Knights. Taking its name from the Latin word for voice, VOX Knights will bring together students of all grade levels who use their voice in various interscholastic competitions, including National Speech and Debate Association, National Junior Speech and Debate Association, Primary Grade Forensic Competi-

Continued on Next Page

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1. Woodward-Lopez G. Kao J. Ritchie L. To what extent have sweetened beverages contributed to the obesity epidemic? Public Health Nutrition. Sep 23, 2010:1-11.
2. Johnson R, et al. Dietary Sugars Intake and Cardiovascular Health: A Scientific Statement from the American Heart Association. Journal of the American Heart Association 2009, vol. 120, pp. 1011-1020. June 1. 2013

Joanie Paraiso, left, and Giselle Long eagerly recruit new members for Mount Carmel School's Math Club at the school's annual Student Activities Fair.

MCS

Leaders of Mount Carmel School's athletic program look forward to a great year of sports. From left to right: Louisa Han, Theresa Zheng, Kelvin Cepeda, and parent coach, Catherine Attao-Toves.

MCS

At the foot of the 2017 CNMI Mock Trial championship trophy and gavel, VOX Knights president Jeff Melchor, center, signs up Angelo Manese for the new club, which was showcased at Mount Carmel School's annual Student Activities Fair.

MCS

At Mount Carmel School's annual Student Activities Fair, Gamers Uknighted (the school's Gamer Club) president, William Blake Deleon Guerrero, left, explains some of the games the club will play this year.

MCS

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Breakfast Buffet $17 **Sunday Brunch $22** **Father's Day Brunch $25** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17	Breakfast Buffet $17 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17	Breakfast Buffet $17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $17 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*

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Last Order: 1:30pm
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Last Order：8:30pm

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tion, Mock Trial, and International Thespian Society.

For its part, the school's Theatre Club plans to produce two films and two stage shows, including Disney's *Mulan Jr.*

The show's director, Reica Ramirez, looks forward to directing her first production. In particular, Ramirez wants to help students grow. "This is another amazing opportunity to grow and develop new skills, along with other people."

When asked why she wanted to direct the show, she said, "I've always been interested in drama and I wanted to learn more about productions from back stage, including costumes, set design, music, sound, lights, and, of course, directing."

Ramirez was assistant director for last year's sold-out performances of Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*

Now that clubs and organizations are up and running, they will shift their attention to the upcoming Student Leadership Retreat, in which all activities for the year will be planned out. ***(PR)***

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Aug. 21-31 is Aluf Luta (Rota Wave) Week

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig last week designated the next two weeks of Aug. 21 to Aug. 31 as Aluf Luta Week, to recognize hand waving and its role in Rota's culture as a tradition that signifies peace, friendliness, and respect.

Atalig was joined by members of the community, representatives of autonomous agencies, and department heads and staff at the Aluf Luta proclamation ceremony at the Office of the Mayor on Aug. 21.

Atalig believes the gesture should be fully appreciated and recognized through proclamation and should be practiced with dignity and pride by Rota's people in every possible way.

The proclamation was read by students from the Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School. Adina Reyes, a junior, read the English version of the proclamation while Dawno Agbayani, a junior, read the Chamorro version.

There will be a signboard competition and song competition as part of the celebration of the occasion.

A series of billboard judging site visits covering Aug. 23-31 has been set in place to showcase the various signboards that celebrate Aluf Luta (Rota Wave). Last Wednesday, Aug. 23, the Department of Labor signboard was adjudged in front of the Office of the Mayor at 3:30pm. That same day, the Department of Commerce had theirs evaluated at Ugis at 4pm. Yesterday, the Department of Public Works signboard was up for judging across the Rota Hotel at 3:30pm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig designated last week the next two weeks of Aug. 21to Aug. 31 as Aluf Luta Week.

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig signs the proclamation for Aluf Luta Week. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig is joined by members of the community, representatives of autonomous agencies, and department heads and staff at the Aluf Luta proclamation ceremony at the Office of the Mayor on Aug. 21. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Today, Aug. 25, the Department of Finance judging site is at Tatgua, the entrance to the former Rota Coconut Village Hotel at 3:30pm. Also today, the Department of Lands & Natural Resources secured the Talu' Curve to post their signboard and be judged at 4pm.

On Monday, Aug. 28, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, along with its Division of Youth Services and the Aging Program, will have all three registered billboards for judging up and ready at the Cpl. Joe Junior G. Charfauros Veterans Memorial Park shoreline at 3:30pm.

The Department of Public Safety's signboard is scheduled for judging on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 3:30pm, while the Department of Fire/EMS will get theirs judged at 4pm, both at the same location, Guata Beach Park. Winners of this year's Aluf Luta signboard competition will take home $300 for first place, $200 for second place, and $100 for third place.

The Aluf Luta song competition deadline is scheduled for Aug. 31 and the solo winner will take home $300.

Presentation of prizes will be announced at a later date. ***(PR)***

★ 2ND ANNUAL ★
We Will Never Forget:
Field of Heroes
16th Anniversary of September 11th
This event is for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to come together in solidarity to remember those who have perished; and to honor our HEROES that responded to save the many lives during this attack and who are still battling our fight against terrorism. Each flag purchased will be to remember or honor everyday heroes, military veterans, military service members, police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, disaster responders, and all other first responders.
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Tinian 2016
Rota 2016
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American Memorial Park
September 10th - Posting of flags
September 11th - Freedom Walk at 5:00pm
Garapan Fishing Base to American Memorial Park
9/11 Ceremony at Field of Heroes site
September 18th - Retiring of flags beginning 8:00 am
TINIAN
Veterans Memorial Park
September 5th - Posting of flags
September 11th - 9/11 Ceremony at Field of Heroes site at 10:00 am
September 17th - Retiring of flags
ROTA
Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Rota Veterans Memorial Park
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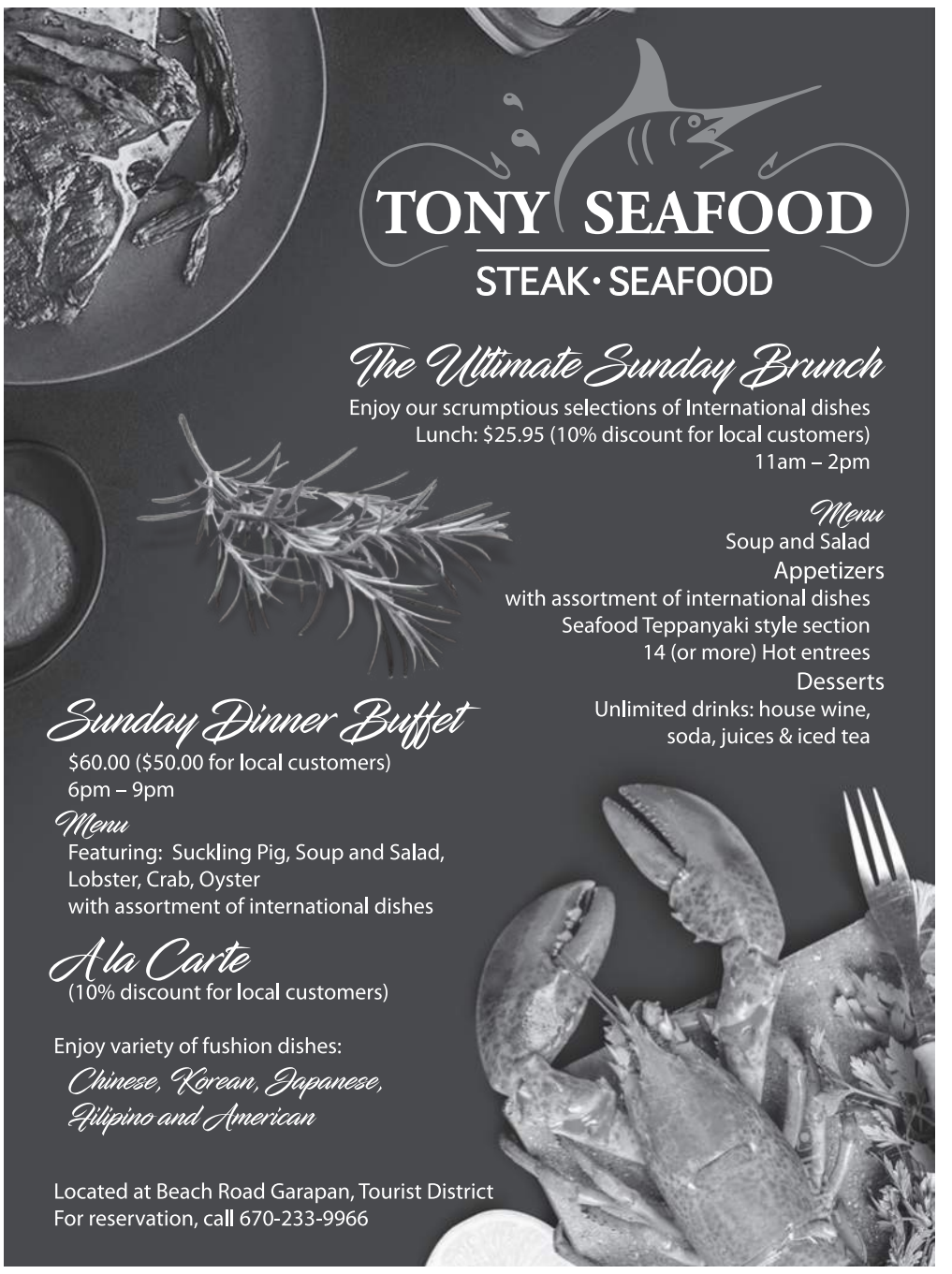
Amirez and Russell are guests on Sunday's 'Humanities Half-Hour'

This Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program will feature 11th grader Seranicia Amirez, who will share her experience as a participant in the recent CNMI Storytellers Workshop facilitated by poet, author, and climate change activist Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner and international photographer Daniel Lin. Amirez will also share her original poetry from the workshop.

The show will also include an interview with Scott Russell of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council who will share information about the 3rd Marianas History Conference on Sept. 1-2, 2017, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The conference will be held from 9am to 5pm each day and is free and open to the public. Thirty-six speakers will present on various topics ranging from ancient Chamorro history to more recent events of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. A complete list of abstracts is available at northernmarianashumanities.org.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program, which airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, is hosted by Catherine Perry Harris. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Seranicia Amirez, right, with radio host Catherine Perry Harris.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Menu
Soup and Salad
Appetizers
with assortment of international dishes
Seafood Teppanyaki style section
14 (or more) Hot entrees
Desserts
Unlimited drinks: house wine, soda, juices & iced tea
Sunday Dinner Buffet
$60.00 ($50.00 for local customers)
6pm – 9pm
Menu
Featuring: Suckling Pig, Soup and Salad, Lobster, Crab, Oyster
with assortment of international dishes
A la Carte
(10% discount for local customers)
Enjoy variety of fushion dishes:
Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino and American
Located at Beach Road Garapan, Tourist District
For reservation, call 670-233-9966

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Deadly Navy accidents demand scrutiny

The damaged port aft hull of the USS *John S. McCain* is visible while docked at Singapore's Changi naval base on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 in Singapore. AP

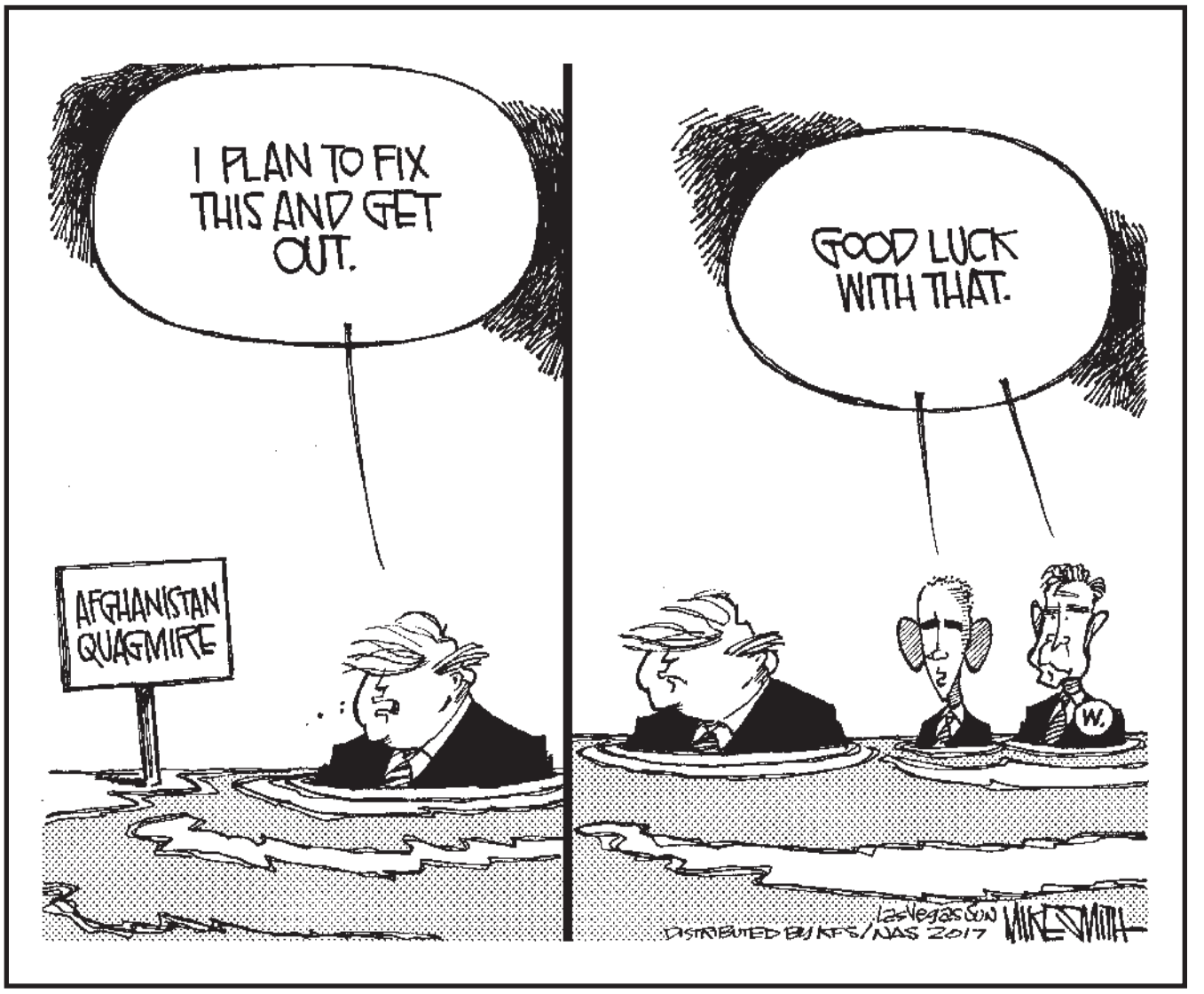
The apparent death of 10 sailors on Monday after the USS *John S. McCain*, a Navy destroyer, collided with an oil tanker near Singapore was the fourth accident involving a Navy warship in Asian waters this year. This awful record shows the necessity of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson's decision to launch a broad inquiry into Navy operations to see if there is anything the Navy can do to improve its training or its management practices and make such mishaps less likely.

The action came just days after the Navy removed the commanding officer, executive officer and senior noncommissioned officer of the USS *Fitzgerald* from their duties for their failings in allowing their destroyer to collide with a cargo ship off the coast of Japan on June 17, leading to the death of seven sailors.

Thankfully, no one was injured in the other two accidents this year—the collision of USS Lake Champlain, a cruiser, with a South Korean fishing boat in May, and the USS Antietam, another cruiser, running aground while attempting to anchor in Tokyo Bay in January. But they also raise basic questions about ship leadership.

Thankfully, the branches of the U.S. military have a culture of accountability. Those responsible for the McCain tragedy will be identified and dealt with appropriately. It's the Navy way.

(c)2017 The San Diego Union-Tribune



Anti-media tirades pose an unprecedented peril

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

A sudden, very troubling development has caused us to urgently use this space today to issue a journalistic Amber Alert—hopefully in time to mobilize all clear-thinking Americans and prevent a horrific killing.

An assassination, in fact—of a journalist, or perhaps even a cluster of journalists, who are increasingly in danger of becoming targets of convenience simply for doing their jobs, covering the president of the United States.

Because America's 45th president is also America's first chief executive who has transformed his presidency into an ever-escalating campaign of vitriolic anti-journalist tirades. It now seems obvious that, sooner or later, Trump's torrent of hateful invectives and flat-out falsehoods will inevitably incite some wrong-headed individual into falling for Trump's sick lie that the news media is America's enemy. After all, thousands of his faithful supporters have been cheering his favorite anti-news media attack lines every time Trump, clearly battling his latest wave of defensiveness, opts to veer off-script.

And Tuesday night, at a huge rally in Phoenix, the president apparently reached his defensive pique, after days of being attacked ever since his initial unwillingness to condemn by name the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazi and white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va. He careened into a massive anti-media tirade that lasted a half-hour as he cycled and recycled through his litany of attack lines as never before.

"These are really, really dishonest people, and they're bad people, and I really think they don't like our country," Trump said, pointing at the White House press corps and especially the TV cameras. And later: "I'm really doing this to show you how damned dishonest these people are."

Trump worked even-handedly to be abusive and unfair to all the president's press corps. He attacked "the failing New York Times, which is like so bad" and then attacked "The Washington Post, which I call a lobbying tool for Amazon, OK, that's a lobbying tool for Amazon." Of course he lashed out at "CNN, which is so bad and so pathetic and their ratings are going down"—and that cued his rally faithful to begin chanting: "CNN sucks! CNN sucks!"

So Trump sought to spread his venom more evenly: "I mean CNN is really bad, but ABC this morning—I don't watch it much, but I'm watching in the morning and they have little George Stephanopoulos talking to (U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations) Nikki Haley, right? Little George..." And Trump puts his hand, down palm down, to hip level to show his impression of the ABC anchor's stature.

Later, he was back to ecumenically questioning the patriotism of the entire press corps: "These are sick people. You know the thing I don't understand? ...You would think they'd want to make our country great again. And I honestly believe they don't. ...If you want to discover the source of the division in our country, look no further than the fake news and the crooked media, which would rather get ratings and clicks than tell the truth."

In decades of covering American presidents, I have observed Republicans and Democrats with strong convictions and impressive statures. But I have never seen a president who frequently seems to become massively unhinged in the way that has become Trump's normalcy.

Tuesday night, on CNN, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said of Trump: "I really question ... his fitness to be in this office." He added that, "worry about" the fact that as president, Trump has "access to nuclear codes" for launching a nuclear attack.

That is a problem Official Washington has been privately whispering about for months now. And indeed, Trump's fitness for office is of frightening concern for us all.

But I also have a concern for the safety of my news media colleagues—because I am convinced that even this out-of-control bully-at-the-presidential-sealed-pulpit doesn't fathom the inevitable sinister consequences of his own words.

Amber Alert: The Republican Party's senior leaders in Congress must limo down to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, where they will be joined by the president's own cabinet. And speaking with a unity that will be a new experience for their once-Grand Old Party, they must tell their president that his newly perilous anti-media tirades must stop.

I don't believe that Trump, even at his worst, wants to be responsible for triggering an assassination, let alone a massacre.

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The third galaxy

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Never let a trend go to waste, even if you're sick of it. With that in mind, as the post-solar-eclipse hoopla finally dies off, I'm going to milk the gig for an excuse to mention something else astronomical. It's an object that's part of our local cosmic family, but it's pretty much the black sheep of the clan and never seems to get much attention outside of astronomy circles. This is the Triangulum galaxy, also known as M33.

M33, the Milky Way (our galaxy) and M31 (the Andromeda galaxy) form a trio of galaxies that are the mainstay of the "local group." There are about 50 other galaxies in the group; most of them are dwarf galaxies and there are also some odd little numbers that remain obscure to me.

The Milky Way, Andromeda, and M33 are all spiral galaxies. Spiral galaxies are shaped like pinwheels and have swirling arms of stars radiating from the centers.

Andromeda is the closest spiral galaxy to the Milky Way, roughly 2.5 million light-years away, and M33 is the second-closest spiral galaxy at about 3 million light-years away.

Andromeda is famous eye candy for observers, and has probably been photographed almost as much as Kim Kardashian. It's a dramatic sight even through a pair of medium-powered binoculars. If you were to go through life seeing just one object through binoculars, I'd nominate Andromeda as the best choice.

M33, by contrast, is a far tamer sight, at least through anything I've aimed at it, and it looks to me like a fuzzy cosmic cloud. Its orientation to us puts it "face on," sort of like looking at the flat part of a dinner plate. You'd think that this large surface area would make it easy to see, but, paradoxically, face-on spirals are hard to see because their luminosity is spread over that large area. Spirals that are edge-on, by contrast, might have relatively low luminosity, but if that light is coming from a more concentrated cross section it makes the galaxy easier to see.

The upshot of this is that textbook figures about galaxies don't really convey how easy, or hard, they are to see.

Anyway, one weird quirk of M33 is that it seems easier to find in binoculars than in a telescope.

At the beginning of this week I spent eclipse day in the mountains just a few miles south of Canada. This was not along the "path of totality," but I wasn't energetic enough to stir myself for that event anyway. At the moment of the eclipse I was having coffee in McDonald's.

The treat, for me, was a night sky that happened to be clear and dark. Andromeda was easily visible with the naked eye. Through binoculars it was, as expected, a great sight. Seeing a bright, glowing ball of 1 trillion stars is nothing to sneeze at.

M33 was the second-easiest galaxy to see, but not nearly as prominent as Andromeda.

I've read claims that M33 is naked-eye visible, but nobody in my circles claims to have seen it with a bare eyeball. Until this changes, we consider Andromeda the most distant thing you're likely to see with the bare eye. And even that requires clear skies and a little bit of knowledge of where to look, so it's not a slam-dunk that will bonk you on the head without a little effort.

At this point we have to get a little bit picky about what "visible" means. Astronomy can stretch the term.

Some things are, of course, clearly visible if you're looking right at them.

Other things, though, are so faint we can only see them with "averted vision," that is, when we're looking a few degrees away from them and they're consequently offset from the center of our focus. This is because of how our eyes work. Nature has seen fit to endow us with really sharp color vision for things directly in focus, while allowing us greater sensitivity, but less color perception, for objects away from that center. After all, when a tiger is lurking in our periphery, it's more important to detect it than to indulge an appreciation of its exact colors.

Anyway, if you ever do get a clear sky and a fix on Andromeda, it might be directly visible or it might require averted vision.

Modern life's technology, of course, jams a lot of bright light into eyeballs that are staring at electronic screens. The technique of averted vision isn't something that comes naturally in these settings. The notion that seeing is a skill seems pretty weird but it is, indeed, very much a skill.

Andromeda and M33 are in viewable positions from Saipan this time of year and would make tempting binocular targets. Alas, I do have to admit that technology trumps typing in this realm. The Web, or various cell phone apps, can orient you far more effectively than I can. Suffice it to say that finding the Great Square of Pegasus is the best way to get in the neighborhood.

M33 is part of our local cosmic family, so even if it's not as famous as Andromeda it still deserves some attention. After all, now that the eclipse is over everybody will just resume talking about politics again. Me, I'll take the stars over that stuff any time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What is the CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018?

Editor's Note: The following letter is being published in two parts due to its length.

First of a two-part letter

In 2015, the medical marijuana bill, Senate Bill 19-06, was introduced due to the large and ever increasing cases of debilitating medical conditions throughout the CNMI.

Upon further review, it was determined that it was similar to Guam's medical marijuana law and that there were severe flaws in its language that would have negative impacts to its implementation, which led to revisions that were more effective in carrying out its intent for the patients.

Overwhelming support was received from testimonies at public hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. During these hearings, majority of people—senior citizens, patients, doctors, lawyers, military veterans, caregivers, and average citizens—not only supported a medical marijuana program, but strongly offered suggestions to address non-medical uses as well, including hemp.

With compassionate support taken into account and evidences showing a cumbersome task in implementing a medical-only marijuana program for patients, a new approach was considered. Hence, in July 2016, Senate Bill 19-106 was introduced, known as the Commonwealth Marijuana Regulation Act of 2017.

The CMRA was a personal use bill that allowed accessible cannabis, whether homegrown or as a taxed commodity to be used for any purpose. Primarily for medical patients, it also included non-medical, agricultural and industrial uses.

A month later, a supertyphoon placed the CNMI in disarray and the bill got shelved, to be reconsidered in the future.

Now, after countless revisions and drafts by assessing effective models from recreational and medical marijuana states and foreign countries, we have Senate Bill 20-62, the CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, that was introduced this August with the best intentions catered to the CNMI and its people.

In drafting the CNMI Cannabis Act, considerations were made from emerging policy changes and shifting trends in the U.S. and throughout the world while placing strong attention from a grower to consumer perspective in the current cannabis culture of the CNMI. We did our best to cater to the legal cannabis industry as much as possible and to allow for consumer access and protections at the same time.

New definitions and sections were added. Provisions were made to promote U.S. citizen and CNMI permanent resident employment while eliminating the dependence on contract worker personnel. A continued residency status for a license applicant was also placed to promote and encourage entrepreneurship for the first 10 years of the Act's passage, while limiting the entrance of foreign commercial prospects.

A micro-producer licensee is allowed to cultivate up to 25 mature plants that will be sold to other licensees. The micro-producer may use the residency status mandate to their advantage in expanding their business from a small-scale operation to a commercial level within the first 10 years.

There are also employment and child custody protection sections, including a mandate to labeling requirements for marijuana items sold by licensees. The bill allows a six-mature-plant limit for home cultivation and a homegrown marijuana registry system to identify legal home growers.

The CNMI government also has the option to avail of licensing to enter the cannabis industry in order to generate direct revenues. This concept is being done in the U.S. The Cannabis Corner, located in North Bonneville, WA, is America's first and only municipally-owned canna-business that was established to help the struggling town. However, what is happening in the U.S. is not a monopoly, as we know that government or privately owned monopolies have limitations and lack vision for growth. In fact, and fortunately, the CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 does not favor monopolies, but encourages free enterprise among the CNMI people to promote competition of prices, products and services as well as entrepreneurship, and to nurture research and development through innovation. This is where direct and indirect advantages relating to cannabis will occur synergistically.

Provisions were made to cater to any medical condition for any age in which cannabis may be used as treatment as per medical certification, whether from the CNMI, the U.S., or foreign country.

Some medical marijuana states have a conditions-only listing that limits certain conditions to be treated, while some states and countries lack medical marijuana laws in general. The advantages of medical tourism, especially with cannabis, are promising in fostering those who seek treatment. Dispensary customers are also challenged to find welcoming venues to enjoy or treat themselves, especially tourists, so careful considerations were made to cater to the consumers by allowing marijuana lounges for on-site consumption of all marijuana items—marijuana, marijuana products, and marijuana extracts—without the inconvenience.

In favor of balance, alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited from being served, sold and consumed on marijuana lounge premises or any cannabis related social event.

To be continued on Monday

Gerry "Banzai" Palacios Hemley
Sensible CNMI/cannabis advocate

Docomo service

I'm very disappointed in Docomo's cable TV service. Their prices increased after Soudelor, their service decreased. It took two years before major network programming was restored. And now with football season upon us, we have no sports schedule channel. At least last year Docomo devoted one channel for sport scheduling. This year, nothing.

It's not like they don't have the channels available. Channels 25 and 42 show identical ESPN programs.

Come on, Docomo. I don't care about your Atisa. I just want to know when and where I can see my favorite teams play football.

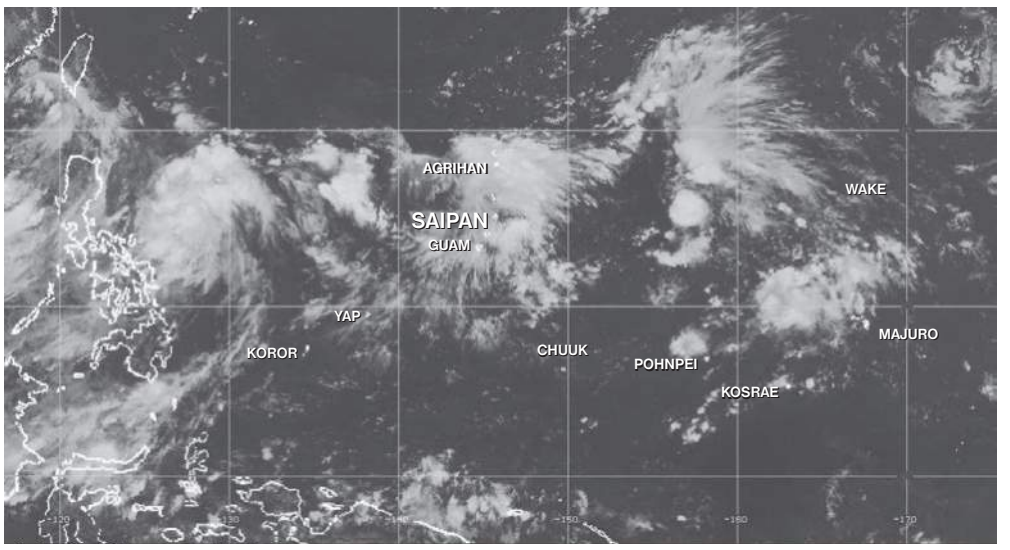
Imants E. Klingbergs
Chalan Galaide, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:43 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

On the surface analysis this morning, a surface trough could be found just west of the Marianas. This trough will produce isolated showers and thunderstorms today. Light winds and deep layer moisture will also contribute to produce isolated thunderstorms mainly over Guam this afternoon. A series of surface troughs in combination with favorable upper-level winds will bring a chance for isolated showers and thunderstorms through Saturday night. Observations this morning from Ritidian, Tanapag, and Ipan buoys indicate combined sea heights of 2 to 3 feet. Expect no change in sea height the next few days. An east swell will be present through the forecast. Surf will be 3 to 5 feet on east facing reefs and 3 feet at best on all remaining reefs. Little will change through the weekend and the rip current risk will remain low.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 81°
Paris	Showers	82° / 64°
Busan	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 68°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	90° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	79° / 62°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.57
9:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
4:21 PM	LOW TIDE	0.26
10:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:55 AM	9:12 PM	-
Saturday	9:45 AM	9:53 PM	-
Sunday	10:35 AM	10:34 PM	-
Monday	11:24 AM	11:15 PM	-
Tuesday	12:13 AM	11:58 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO424:50pm	12:05am+1		2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Seoul exhibit focuses on Rota

The natural beauty of Rota was highlighted by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Seoul this month with the photo exhibition "Trip to Rota" on Aug. 16-22, 2017.

The exhibit featured the work of professional photographers/celebrities who visited the island in June 2017 with the photography club Nemo to promote the Marianas as the best destination for photography and travel.

Approximately 70 travel trade partners, media, digital influencers, and co-op partners attended the exhibition opening ceremony on Aug. 16. Also in attendance were participating photographers, including actor Jungjin Lee, a member of famous singing group Ulala Session Myunghoon Kim, a member of K-pop idol group 9-Muses Hyuna, and five other photographers.

"The exhibition was well-received," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Each of the participants shared their feelings and impressions of Rota, saying that Rota has its own 'analogue beauty' which they thought was very unique compared to other destinations all over the world. Hyuna of K-pop idol group 9-Muses mentioned that she was so satisfied with her photos and video footage that she has used them in her official music video for her new single album title song *Doong Doong*."

Several travel trade newspapers have already released articles regarding the photo exhibition, and powerful bloggers with more than 5,000 daily visitors uploaded their posts about Rota and the exhibition.

The MVA is also conducting an online event on its social media channels to promote the exhibition and the destination itself, increasing both the number of followers and their engagement rates. The prizes include ICN-SPN round-trip air tickets, cameras, sunglasses and coffee e-coupons.

The MVA also conducted another online consumer event for those who visited the gallery during the exhibition period.

The photo exhibition is being held at S.I. Space gallery in Cheongdam-dong, an upmarket shopping and culture area in Seoul. ***(MVA)***

The opening ceremony of the "Trip to Rota" photo exhibit by the Marianas Visitors Authority on Aug. 16, 2017, in Seoul attracted approximately 70 travel trade partners, media, digital influencers, and co-op partners. MVA

The opening ceremony of the "Trip to Rota" photo exhibit by the Marianas Visitors Authority was held on Aug. 16, 2017, at S.I. Space gallery in Cheongdam-dong, in upmarket shopping and culture area in Gungnam, Seoul. MVA

Motion to reconsider allowing OAG to amend traffic citation is denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied last week Corrections director Gregory Frank Taitano Castro's motion to reconsider the court's order allowing the government to amend the traffic citation issued against him over the alleged misuse of a government vehicle.

Camacho said that Castro failed to argue that the court's order allowing the Commonwealth to amend the citation was either in clear error or worked a manifest injustice.

Nnor did Castro argue that new evidence or a change in law required reconsideration, he said.

The traffic citation charged Castro with four offenses: Operating a government vehicle for a purpose other than official government business, operating a government vehicle with tinting on its windows, operating a government vehicle without government identification markings on the front doors, and operating a government vehicle without government license plate.

Castro's bench trial started last July 10; that same day the government moved to amend one charge. The request was granted.

Last July 10 and 11, Castro, through counsel Rene Holmes, asked the court to reconsider its order allowing assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid to amend one charge in the citation.

Holmes said the citation did not provide adequate notice of the charges and thus violated Castro's right to due process. Holmes moved to dismiss the case and also asked the court to reconsider its ruling.

The Office of the Public Auditor allegedly caught Castro using an unmarked DOC vehicle to go to the Marianas Country Club in Marpi in the morning of March 15, 2017, to play golf. He allegedly played golf with his brother for three hours.

Castro, 58, pleaded not guilty.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Coral Reef Initiative Program will be hosting a free public screening of the documentary *Chasing Coral* at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on August 25th at 5:30pm.

Chasing Coral is an ocean adventure film. It reveals the story of a team of photographers, scientists and other experts who discover and try to capture one of the world's largest coral bleaching events. It took 3.5 years to make and features over 500 hours of underwater footage with submissions from over 30 countries.

After the film, there will be a short presentation by local scientists on coral bleaching and other climate change related issues in the CNMI. These experts will then stick around for a Q&A session to answer any questions that you may have.

This film screening is a partnership with the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative and The Chasing Coral Team with support from the National Park Service. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. The film will run approximately 90 minutes.

For more information, visit www.cnmicoralreef.com

Business

Walmart joins forces with Google on voice-activated shopping

NEW YORK (AP)—Walmart is diving into voice-activated shopping. But unlike online leader Amazon, it's not doing it alone.

The world's largest retailer said Wednesday it's working with Google to offer hundreds of thousands of items from laundry detergent to Legos for voice shopping through Google Assistant. The capability will be available in late September.

It's Google's biggest retail partnership—and the most personalized shopping experience it offers—as it tries to broaden the reach of its voice-activated assistant Home speaker. And it underscores Walmart's drive to compete in an area dominated by Amazon's Alexa-powered Echo device.

"Voice shopping is becoming a more important part of everyday shopping behavior," said Marc Lore, CEO of Walmart's U.S. e-commerce business.

The voice-activated devices are becoming more mainstream as they become more accessible. Even Apple has one coming out this year. Walmart has said Google's investment in natural language processing and artificial intelligence will help make voice-activated shopping more popular.

And Lore said the personalization of the partnership means people can shout out generic items like milk, bread and cheese, and Google Assistant will know exactly the brands and the size that the user wants.

Google introduced shopping to Home in February, letting people use voice to order essentials from more than 40 retailers like Target and Costco under its Google Express program. But that was far behind the Echo, available since late 2014.

Walmart, which has more stores than any other retailer and the largest share of the U.S. grocery market, is also working hard to close the gulf online between itself and Amazon.

It has overhauled its shipping strategy and is expanding store-curb pickup for groceries ordered online. But it's also had to look beyond itself and form partnerships. Walmart announced Monday that it's expanding its grocery delivery service with ride-hailing service Uber, and it's been testing same-day delivery service with Deliv at Sam's Club in Miami.

Amazon generally has been building its network of services on its own, using its $99-a-year Prime membership with same-day and even one-hour shipping options to develop loyalty.

It's also been drawing in customers with its Alexa devices. Amazon doesn't give sales figures for Echo, but Consumer Intelligence Research Partners estimated that it's sold more than 10 million Echo devices in the U.S. since late 2014. That includes the core $179 Echo as well as the less expensive and smaller Echo Dot and the portable Amazon Tap.

To be more competitive with Amazon, Google Express is scrapping the $95-a-year membership starting Wednesday, allowing shoppers to get free delivery within one to three days on orders as long as the purchase is above each store's minimum.

Walmart is integrating its Easy Reorder feature—which has data on both store and online purchases—into Google Express. Shoppers who want to reorder their favorites have to link their Walmart account to Google Express.

With other Google Express retailers, personalization takes time as the assistant learns shoppers' preferences, says Brian Elliott, general manager of Google Express. So the quick personalization with Walmart should make voice-activated shopping more attractive, he says.

Trump bashes NAFTA in midst of talks to revamp trade deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just a week into talks to rewrite the North American Free Trade Agreement, President Donald Trump is already threatening to abandon the 23-year-old pact with Canada and Mexico.

At a high-profile campaign-style rally in Phoenix on Tuesday night, Trump predicted that the United States would "end up probably terminating" NAFTA "at some point," though he said he hadn't made a final decision.

"Personally," Trump said, "I don't think we can make a deal because we have been so badly taken advantage of."

The president had made the same threat in April but then reversed himself after a pushback from American businesses, especially farm groups, which have benefited from expanded access to the Mexican market resulting from NAFTA.

The president's renewed threat Tuesday reignited such concerns.

"Abruptly ending NAFTA could create a string of unintended consequences that need to be carefully considered," said Ann Wilson, an executive at the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association, which represents auto suppliers. "Mexico and Canada are trusted trade partners to the U.S., and, as a result, we are strong national security partners. We should not take that for granted."

NAFTA erased most trade barriers separating the U.S., Canada and Mexico and fostered a rapid rise in commerce and closer diplomatic ties among the three countries. But the agreement has long fueled heated criticism in the United States because it led some American-based manufacturers to move operations south of the border to capitalize on lower-wage Mexican labor.

Trump has condemned NAFTA as "the worst trade deal in history" and promised to fix it—or drop out of it altogether.

As negotiations on a NAFTA overhaul began last week in Washington, there was wide agreement on the need to modernize the pact to reflect changes over the past two decades, such as the rise of e-commerce.

China criticizes US trade probe as protectionism

BEIJING (AP)—China's Commerce Ministry on Thursday criticized a U.S. decision to launch a trade probe of Beijing's technology policy as an attack on the global trading system and said it will "resolutely defend" Chinese companies.

Trade groups welcomed President Donald Trump's Aug. 14 order to look into whether Beijing improperly requires companies to hand over technology as a condition of market access. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer announced a formal investigation this week.

The action improperly applies U.S. law instead of international rules and is "the destruction of the existing international trade system," said a ministry spokesman, Gao Feng, at a news briefing.

"We are strongly dissatisfied with this unilateral and protectionist practice and will take all necessary measures to resolutely defend the legitimate rights and interests of the Chinese side and Chinese enterprises," said Gao.

Beijing requires automakers and other foreign companies in China to work through joint ventures, usually with state-owned partners. They often are required to give technology to partners that might become competitors.

More than 20 percent of 100 American companies that responded to a survey by the U.S.-China Business Council, an industry group, said they were asked to transfer technology within the past three years as a condition of market access.

Foreign business groups complain companies are being squeezed out of promising Chinese markets or pressured to hand over technology for electric cars and other emerging industries.

Trump said in April he was setting aside trade disputes while Washington and Beijing worked together to persuade North Korea to give up nuclear weapons development. But American officials have resumed criticizing Chinese policy in recent weeks.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
AIRPORT MASTER PLANNING and AGIS SURVEY SERVICES
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-009-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Airport Master Planning and AGIS Survey Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. CPA's selection process is intended to be in compliance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-14E (or latest publication) entitled "Architectural, Engineering and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects" and in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, August 18, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Capability to perform all or most aspects of the project, such as preliminary design, construction management, bidding services, Airport Layout Plan revisions, environmental evaluations – such as documented category exclusion, financial analysis, preliminary civil design, mechanical and electrical engineering. Demonstrated ability to implement quality control measures, identify problems completely, and implement corrective action promptly in order to meet contract schedule requirements and AIP standards. **(WEIGHT 20)**
2. Key personnel's professional background and successful relevant experience in airport projects comparable to the proposed projects. **(WEIGHT 20)**
3. Demonstrated ability to meet Airport Improvement Program AGIS standards, NGS requirements, Airport Master Plan standards, project schedules or deadlines, and to complete projects without having major cost escalations, overruns, or disputed claims; and demonstrated ability to meet Airport Improvement Program. **(WEIGHT 20)**
4. Quality of projects previously undertaken that are comparable to proposed projects. **(WEIGHT 10)**
5. Familiarity with the project and demonstrated understanding of the projects potential problems and the owner's special concerns. **(WEIGHT 10)**
6. Capability to furnish a qualified and experienced team for all phases of the Airport Master Planning Services and AGIS Project; and knowledgeable of specific issues at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. (WEIGHT 10)
7. Demonstrated skills, knowledge, experience, and capabilities in AGIS; ability to implement an AGIS Obstruction Survey and Airport Airspace Analysis; ability to complete a comprehensive Airport Master Plan Update; ability to complete projects on budget and on time. **(WEIGHT 10)**

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified consulting firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 25, 2017

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2017-003
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017
TIME: 10:00 AM

"INSTALLATION OF NEW SERVER FOR NMHC"

Bid packets will be available on Friday, August 25, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Procurement Officer, or Mr. Jacob J. Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Board Chairman
& Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan,
Director, Division of Procurement
& Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2017-004
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017
TIME: 10:00 AM

"ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES"

Proposal packets will be available on Friday, August 25, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (local time), September 6, 2017 at the NMHC Central Office Conference in Garapan. No proposal will be accepted from any firm or company, which fails to attend this mandatory pre-proposal conference.

For more information, contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Procurement Officer, or Mr. Jacob J. Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Board Chairman
& Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement
& Supply

Nation

Within 24 hours, a pair of wildly different Trump speeches

RENO, Nev. (AP)—It was a tale of two Trumps in the desert Southwest.

Within a 24-hour span, President Donald Trump delivered one speech in which he tore into the media and members of his own party, and a second in which he called for national unity and love. The about-face seemed to reflect the president's real-time internal debate between calls for moderation and his inclination to let loose.

On Wednesday, the president spoke in measured tones and stuck to his prepared remarks as he praised veterans at an American Legion conference in Nevada as examples for a nation yearning to set aside its differences.

"We are here to hold you up as an example of strength, courage and resolve that our country will need to overcome the many challenges that we face," he said.

The night before, the president cut loose in Arizona, defying instructions from his aides to stick to the script and angrily renewing his fight with the press over its coverage of his comments about the race-fueled violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The public push-and-pull in Trump's message mirrors the internal dynamics at the White House, where new chief of staff John Kelly has organized and regimented the West Wing staff but has been unable to rein in the president's tendency to veer off course.

Trump

The president's speech in Reno was full of the calls for patriotism and national healing that would not have seemed out of the ordinary had they been uttered by previous occupants of the Oval Office.

But his rally in Phoenix on Tuesday night was uniquely Trump. He opened his remarks with a talk of unity but quickly erupted in anger, blaming the media for the widespread condemnation of his response to the violence in Charlottesville at a protest organized by white supremacists.

Trump read from his three responses to the racially charged violence, becoming more animated with each one. He withdrew from his suit pocket the written statement he'd read the day a woman was killed by a man who had plowed a car through counter-protesters. But he skipped over the trouble-causing part that he'd freelanced at the time: his observation that "many sides" were to blame.

That, as well as his reiteration days later that "both sides" were to blame for the violence that led to the death of Heather Heyer and two state troopers, led Democrats and many Republicans to denounce Trump for not unmistakably calling out white supremacists and other hate groups.

By the time he arrived at the American Legion conference, Trump seemed more congenial. He even thanked Sen. Dean Heller, a Nevada Republican with whom he has openly and repeatedly feuded. He discussed his early efforts to restructure and improve the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Later in the speech, Trump said Americans aren't defined by the color of their skin, the size of their paycheck or their political party.

Charlottesville covers Confederate statues in black

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Workers in Charlottesville draped giant black covers over two statues of Confederate generals on Wednesday to symbolize the city's mourning for a woman killed while protesting a white nationalist rally.

The work began around 1 p.m. in Emancipation Park, where a towering monument of Gen. Robert E. Lee on horseback stands. Workers gathered around the monument with a large black drape. Some stood in cherry-pickers and others used ropes and poles to cover the statue as onlookers took photos and video. Some of the crowd cheered as the cover was put in place.

"It's great. It's a good start," said Jamie Dyer, who spoke a short time later from nearby Justice Park, where workers covered a statue of Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. "They do have to go, but it is a start, and I'm glad the city has finally recognized it has to happen on some level."

Later Wednesday, local media reported that a man with a gun strapped to his leg approached the Lee statue and began cutting the tarp with a knife.

Police asked him to stop, and he complied. He addressed reporters and bystanders, saying he thought it was illegal under state law to cover a war memorial and that doing so amounted to erasing history.

In front of TV cameras, the man starting arguing with others at the scene over what should be done with the statues and who was at fault for the violence that unfolded at the Aug. 12 rally.

The decision to shroud the statues came at a city council meeting earlier this week. Irate residents packed the meeting, screaming and cursing at councilors over the city's response to the rally. The event, dubbed "Unite the Right," is believed to be the largest gathering of white nationalists in a decade.

Neo-Nazis, KKK members, skinheads and members of various white nationalist factions clashed violently with counter-protesters in the street adjacent to Emancipation Park.

The fighting went on largely uninterrupted by authorities until the event was declared an unlawful assembly and the crowd was forced to disperse. Later, a car rammed into a crowd of demonstrators who were marching through downtown, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring more than two dozen others.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/DPL-17-RFP-027

ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISIONS, I DENNI, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Public Lands (DPL) are soliciting sealed Proposals for Architectural & Engineering Services for the Proposed Homestead Subdivisions, I Denni, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-305 of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after August 25, 2017 at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Lands Conference Room, 2nd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building on September 12, 2017. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Patricia Rasa, Director of Planning Division at Division of Public Lands, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time September 26, 2017.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. ***Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%***
2. ***Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%***
3. ***Project Approach – 35%***
4. ***Schedule of Completion – 15%***

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, §70-30.3-245.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW/DPL-17-RFP-027". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 29, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 29, 2017, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 29, 2017 – AND must be received no later than October 10, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

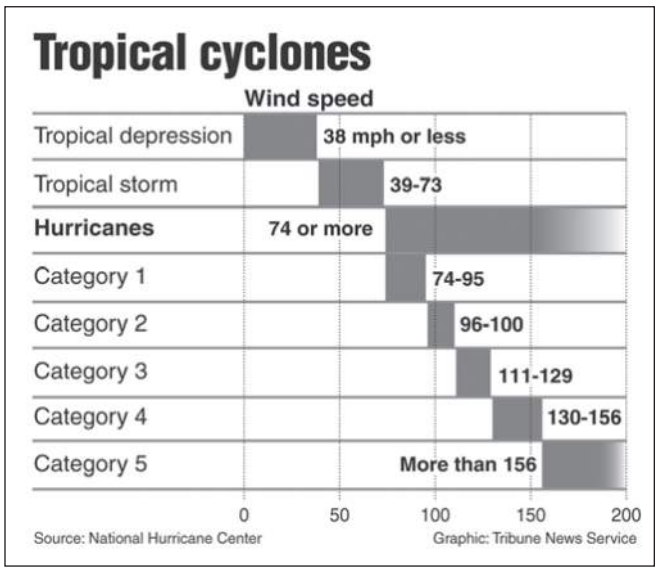
Asia

12 dead as strong typhoon floods Macau, southern China

HONG KONG (AP)—The most powerful typhoon to hit the southern Chinese region in more than half a century left at least 12 dead as a sudden deluge swamped the gambling hub of Macau, submerging streets and stranding residents.

Macau said Thursday eight people were killed in the former Portuguese colony, including two men found overnight in a parking garage. Another 153 were injured amid extensive flooding, power outages, and the smashing of doors and windows by the high winds and driving rain.

"It's a calamity, the losses are high and a lot of buildings need repair," said Macau lawmaker Jose Pereira Coutinho, adding that he heard from many people who still had no water or electricity.



Coutinho said the flooding was at its worst in the older parts of the city, where narrow lanes date back from Macau's time as a Portuguese colony for more than four centuries.

"People were just swimming, they cried for help. There were no boats. The water came so suddenly," said Coutinho, who slammed the city government for a slow response.

Residents waded in waist-high murky water and rows of city buses sat half-submerged on city streets, according to photos circulating among residents.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said four more people were killed in the neighboring province of Guangdong and one person remains missing. Typhoon Hato roared into the area Wednesday with winds of up to 160 kilometers (99 miles) per hour. It weakened into a tropical storm Thursday as it moved farther west inland.

Xinhua said almost 27,000 people were evacuated to emergency shelters, while extensive damage to farmland due to the heavy rain and high tides was also reported. Almost 2 million households lost power temporarily, while fishing boats were called back to port and train services and flights suspended, Xinhua said.

"Compared to other typhoons, Hato moved fast, quickly grew more powerful and caused massive amounts of rainfall," Wu Zhifang, chief weather forecaster at the Guangdong meteorological bureau, was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

By Thursday, a weaker Hato was moving into China's Guangxi region.

Flooding and injuries were also reported in Hong Kong, which lies across the water 64 kilometers (40 miles) from Macau, but there were no reports of deaths. Hato's fierce gales blew out windows on skyscrapers in the Asian financial capital, raining shattered glass onto the eerily quiet streets below. Hong Kong's weather authorities had raised the hurricane signal to the highest level for the first time in five years.

Thailand awaits verdict that could send former PM to prison

BANGKOK (AP)—Friends and foes alike of former Prime Minister, Yingluck Shinawatra, are anxiously awaiting a verdict Friday by the Thailand's Supreme Court on charges that she was criminally negligent in implementing a rice subsidy program that is estimated to have cost the government as much as $17 billion and could now cost her 10 years in prison.

Supporters are expected to appear outside the courthouse to show support for Yingluck, but Thai authorities have threatened legal action against anyone planning to help transport her supporters to the scene.

The verdict is generally seen as a political judgment as much as a criminal one. The case against Yingluck is the latest in a decade-long offensive against the political machine founded and directed by her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup for alleged corruption and disrespect for the monarchy.

Thaksin, a telecommunications mogul, has been in self-imposed exile since 2008 to escape a prison sentence on a conflict of interest conviction. The 2006 coup triggered years of sometimes-violent battles for power between his supporters, mainly the less well-off rural majority who delivered him thumping election victories, and his opponents, royalists, much of the urban middle and upper classes and the military, who in 2014 ousted Yingluck's elected government as they had her brother's.

Yingluck has appeared calm in the days leading up to the verdict, making merit at Buddhist temples and reportedly praying for a "victory" in Friday's ruling.

However the Supreme Court rules, the ruling junta is set to lose face, one analyst says.

If the court rules not guilty, "the generals will have egg on their face," said Paul Chambers, a political scientist at Naresuan University in northern Thailand, since the military's reasoning for staging the 2014 coup that ousted Yingluck's government was, in part, to rid the system of corrupt politicians. If she is found guilty "then the generals will have to deal with what comes next and that could be a martyr figure."

ASIAN BRIEFS

US Navy: Body found by Malaysia not one of McCain's missing

SINGAPORE (AP)—The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet says a body found at sea by Malaysian forces is not one of the sailors missing after a collision between the USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker. The fleet says in a statement Thursday that the remains were medically examined and will be returned to Malaysian authorities. So far, the bodies of five of the 10 sailors have been identified. Remains were found in flooded compartments of the McCain. Several navies continue to search seas east of Singapore where the collision happened early Monday.

US envoy briefs Pakistan army chief on Trump's Afghan plans

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The U.S. ambassador to Pakistan met with that country's army chief on Wednesday, two days after President Donald Trump warned Pakistan to stop harboring insurgents who are battling U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Pakistan's military said Ambassador David Hale briefed Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa on Trump's new Afghan war strategy. The U.S. president announced the new strategy late Monday but provided few details about how he plans to win America's longest war, which began nearly 16 years ago. The military statement quoted Bajwa as saying Pakistan wants peace in Afghanistan. U.S. officials and analysts have long said Pakistan tolerates the presence of the Afghan Taliban and the allied Haqqani network, which are leading the insurgency against Afghan and U.S. forces.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17- CHCC/FACILITY-24

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-COTA/FTA-208

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF PHONE RECORDING SOFTWARE FOR UP TO SIX (6) LANDLINE PHONE UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 25, 2017** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NARU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-OGM/BIP-201

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 (4 DOORS) PICK UP TRUCK W/TOWING CAPACITY FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE, BREADFRUIT INITIATIVE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPANIO E. CABRERA JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-TDLNR-207 – CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) UNITS ZERO-TURN RIDING MOWERS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

House of Justice • Guma Hustisia • Ilmwal Aweewe
P.O. Box 502179
Saipan, MP 96950-2179
https://www.cnmilaw.org
Tel: (670) 236-9820
Fax: (670) 236-9897
cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 30, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Ilmwal Aweewe
Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. Preliminary Matters
   a. Call to Order and Roll Call
   b. Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Government Act, 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq*.)
   c. Final Approval of March 30, 2017 Meeting Minutes
2. Executive Director's Report
   a. Office & Staff
   b. Publications – Print & Website: Status, Issues, & Plans
      i. NMI Reporter
      ii. CMC
      iii. NMIAC
      iv. Driver's Handbook
      v. Miscellaneous Projects
   c. FY 2017 and FY 2018 Budget & Expenditures
   d. Sales and Other Reports
3. Old Business
4. New Business
   a. Contract Amendment - Executive Director (Executive Session)
5. Tentative Date for Next Meeting and Adjournment

World

Dutch police detain driver of Spanish van near cancelled gig

AP
In this image taken from video a van is examined behind a cordoned-off area in Rotterdam, Wednesday Aug. 23, 2017, after a concert by an American rock band was cancelled Wednesday night following a threat, the city's mayor said.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Police in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam detained the driver of a van with Spanish license plates and a number of gas tanks inside after a concert by an American rock band was cancelled Wednesday night following a threat, the city's mayor said.

A Spanish counterterrorism official said the van is not connected to the attacks that killed 15 people in Spain last week.

The official said investigators discarded a possible link between the van's driver and the extremist cell that carried out the attacks in and near Barcelona after questioning the driver and examining the van. Rotterdam police could not be reached for a reaction to the Spanish official's comments.

Police detained the driver for questioning about two hours after a concert by Los Angeles band Allah-Las was called off after Dutch police received a terror warning. Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb said the warning came from Spanish police.

However, Aboutaleb said at a hastily arranged press conference that it was too soon to link the van to the unspecified threat directed at the concert.

"It is not yet good to say that the things are linked," Aboutaleb said. "It still has to be established that there was a link between the van and the threat. We can't say that yet."

Military explosives experts checked the van and a police officer later got behind the wheel and drove the vehicle away, Dutch broadcaster NOS reported.

Police said in a statement that the van contained "a couple of gas bottles."

The Dutch terror threat level, which is at level four of a five-step scale, remained unchanged, Lodewijk Hekking, a spokesman for the country's counterterror chief told the AP in a text message.

The Spanish counterterrorism investigation official said Spain's Civil Guard received "an alert indicating the possibility of an attack today in a concert that was going to take place in Rotterdam."

The Civil Guard shared the information with Dutch authorities and is investigating the threat, said the source, speaking anonymously because the Civil Guard is still probing the threat.

Police in Spain have been investigating the deadly vehicle attacks last week in and near Barcelona. They later found bomb-making equipment that included more than 100 tanks of butane gas, nails and 500 liters of acetone.

Rotterdam police said they took the information about a threat "seriously enough that after discussion with organizers it was decided to cancel the event."

Concert organizer Rotown said earlier on Twitter that the concert venue, a former grain silo called Maassilo, was being evacuated because of the unspecified threat. The show hadn't yet started when the decision to cancel it was made.

Dutch television showed officers in body armor outside Maassilo and what appeared to be members of the band leaving the venue in a white van with a police escort. By around midnight, the area was calm and police had lifted the cordon they earlier put up around the venue, the NOS reported.

Allah-Las is a four-piece band from Los Angeles.

In an email to The Associated Press, the band's label, Mexican Summer, said: "Due to a potential terror threat at The Maassilo in Rotterdam, the Allah-Las show was cancelled tonight.

"Details are not available at this time as the incident is still under investigation. The band is unharmed and are very grateful to the Rotterdam Police and other responsible agencies for detecting the potential threat before anyone was hurt."

In an interview with British newspaper The Guardian last year, band members said they chose the word Allah, Arabic for God, because they were seeking a "holy sounding" name and did not realize it might cause offense.

"We get emails from Muslims, here in the U.S. and around the world, saying they're offended, but that absolutely wasn't our intention," lead singer Miles Michaud told the newspaper. "We email back and explain why we chose the name, and mainly they understand."

Venezuela's ousted prosecutor accuses Maduro of corruption

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Venezuela's recently ousted chief prosecutor accused President Nicolas Maduro and several allies on Wednesday of participating in acts of corruption, saying she would turn over proof that would help other countries prosecute.

Venezuela's government quickly fired back, accusing Luisa Ortega Diaz of "grave moral and ethical infractions."

Ortega spoke during a meeting of Mercosur trade bloc prosecutors in the Brazilian capital, Brasilia. Ortega was removed by a new, pro-government constitutional assembly in early August after breaking with Venezuela's socialist government.

She fled abroad with her husband, whose arrest was ordered by the country's supreme court.

"I want to denounce, in front of the world, a grave situation in Venezuela: that of excessive corruption," Ortega said. "Because of that reason, (Maduro's administration) is violating the constitution and law to protect itself."

Ortega said she had evidence implicating Maduro and other top officials in corruption involving Brazilian constructor Odebrecht and other companies.

Ortega told reporters after the meeting that Maduro loyalist Diosdado Cabello received $100 million from Odebrecht via a Spanish company called TSE Arietis, which was owned by cousins of Cabello.

She also claimed that Maduro was the owner of a Mexican company that Venezuela had contracted to provide basic foodstuffs. She said Group Grand Limited was registered in Mexico under the names Rodolfo Reyes, Alvaro Pulido Vargas and Alex Saab, but that Maduro was the real owner.

"It's impossible for cases to be investigated in Venezuela," said Ortega, adding that she was providing documentation to the United States, Brazil, Colombia and Spain.

Ortega's claims could not be immediately verified. Emails sent to Group Grand Limited and TSE Arietis seeking comment were not returned.

Late Wednesday, Cabello said that Ortega's accusations were just an attempt to draw attention away from the corruption investigations she and her husband face in Venezuela.

In a statement, Odebrecht said her allegations were "not true." In particular, the company denied Ortega's allegation that Odebrecht had received money for projects that had been halted.

Qatar restores diplomatic ties to Iran amid regional crisis

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Qatar restored full diplomatic relations with Iran early Thursday, disregarding the demands of Arab nations now locked in a regional dispute with the energy-rich country that it lessen its ties to Tehran.

In announcing its decision, Qatar did not mention the diplomatic crisis roiling Gulf Arab nations since June, when Qatar found its land, sea and air routes cut off by its neighbors over Doha's policies across the Mideast.

However, the move comes just days after Saudi Arabia began promoting a Qatari royal family member whose branch of the family was ousted in a palace coup in 1972.

"Qatar has shown it is going to go in a different direction," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University who lives in Seattle. "It could very well be calculated toward reinforcing the point that Qatar will not bow to this regional pressure placed upon it."

Qatar's Foreign Ministry announced early Thursday that the country's ambassador would return to Tehran. Qatar pulled its ambassador in early 2016 after Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric sparked attacks on two Saudi diplomatic posts in Iran, a move to show solidarity with the kingdom.

"The state of Qatar expressed its aspiration to strengthen bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields," a short Foreign Ministry statement said.

Iranian state media acknowledged the development, without elaborating.

Despite recalling its ambassador in 2016, Iran and Qatar maintained their valuable commercial ties. Qatar and Iran share a massive offshore natural gas field, called the South Pars Field by Tehran and the North Field by Doha.

That gas field's vast reserves made Qataris have the highest per capita income in the world, as well as funded the nation's Al-Jazeera satellite news network and secured hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Since the diplomatic dispute with Arab nations began in June, Iran has sent food shipments to Qatar. Shiite power Iran also has incorporated the crisis into its regular criticism of the Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia, part of the two Mideast powers' long-running proxy war.

There was no immediate reaction from the Arab nations boycotting Qatar. On Wednesday, the Central African nation of Chad announced it would close its embassy in Doha, accusing Qatar of trying to destabilize it from neighboring Libya.

The diplomatic crisis began June 5, when Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar over allegations including it funding extremists and being too close to Iran. Qatar long has denied funding extremists.

The boycotting countries later issued a list of 13 demands to Qatar, including that Doha shut its diplomatic posts in Iran. Qatar ignored the demands and let a deadline to comply pass, creating an apparent stalemate in the crisis. Attempts by Kuwait, the U.S. and others have failed to make headway.

In recent days, however, Saudi Arabia announced it would allow Qataris to make the annual hajj pilgrimage, which is required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life. Saudi state media said that came in part due to an intercession by Qatari royal family member Sheikh Abdullah Al Thani, who met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and later a vacationing King Salman in Morocco.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

1-armed man arrested with machete, clown mask calls it prank

BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP)—A one-armed Maine man accused of startling neighbors by going for a stroll wearing a clown mask and brandishing a machete says it was supposed to be a prank. Thirty-one-year-old Hollis resident Corey Berry pleaded not guilty Wednesday to criminal threatening and weapons charges. Police say Berry was intoxicated but cooperative when they arrested him last month. They say he had a machete taped to the stump of his amputated arm and was wearing a mask to copy previous clown sightings. Police say Berry was first spotted in Hollis but then fled into the woods. They say he was taken into custody when he re-emerged.

Dog that went missing after Tinder date reunited with owner

LEONIA, N.J. (AP)—A dog that went missing after a house sitter invited a Tinder date to the home has been reunited with its owner. Authorities say Maggie, a 2-year-old Maltese was presumed stolen from the Leonia home Sunday night. But she was found Monday night in Garfield, a town about 20 minutes away. It's not clear how the dog got there. But it eventually ended up at an animal shelter and its photo was posted on a Facebook page for lost and found pets. Leonia police posted pictures of Maggie online Tuesday and were contacted by someone who thought she resembled a dog on the Facebook page. Authorities say the house sitter invited a man to the home and he brought another man with him. The dog, a laptop and an Amazon package disappeared after the pair's visit.

German police seize thousands of 'Trump' ecstasy tablets

BERLIN (AP)—German police say they have seized thousands of tablets of the party drug ecstasy in the shape of Donald Trump's head, a haul with an estimated street value of 39,000 euros ($45,900.). Police in Osnabrueck, in northwestern Germany, say they found the drugs while checking an Austrian-registered car on the A30 highway on Saturday. They say the people in the car, a 51-year-old man and his 17-year-old son, told officers they had been in the Netherlands to buy a vehicle but hadn't succeeded so were returning home. Officers said they found about 5,000 of the orange, Trump-shaped ecstasy tablets along with a large, but unspecified quantity of cash.

Judge refuses to toss conviction in $100B bogus lien case

CHICAGO (AP)—A federal udge has affirmed the conviction of a woman who filed $100 billion in bogus liens against judges, a prosecutor and other law enforcers in Chicago to avenge her brother's drug conviction. The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin reports that the judge found Cherron Phillips had missed deadlines to challenge her conviction and seven-year prison sentence. But the judge says he wouldn't have overturned the conviction even if she had filed the papers on time. As a self-described "sovereign citizen," Phillips didn't recognize government authority over her.

Pittsburgh police, FBI looking for wig-wearing bank robber

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh police and FBI agents are trying to find a bank robber who wore an unkempt woman's wig to disguise himself. Despite the suspect's goofy appearance, authorities are concerned because the man also had a knife when he approached a teller at the Dollar Bank in the city's South Side on Monday morning. The suspect also wore sunglasses. He is described as a white man about 5-foot-10 (1.52-meters) to 6 feet (1.83-meters) and weighing between 150 pounds (68 kilograms) and 160 pounds (73 kilograms). Authorities say the man was carrying a blue bag and ran away with an unspecified amount of money.

Upset over drug use on property, owner torches trailer home

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio (AP)— Authorities say an Ohio property owner admitted setting his vacant trailer home on fire because he's tired of renting it to people addicted to drugs. The Chillicothe Gazette reports Ross County sheriff's deputies arrived at property owned by 41-year-old Robert Violette last week and found him trying to extinguish a fire in one of his trailers with a garden hose. An incident report says Violette told deputies he wanted to torch all the trailers on his property because of tenants who were misusing drugs. A township fire department put out the blaze and issued Violette a warning.

Buddy the blind sea lion goes to Los Angeles Zoo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's big and he's loud. A nearly 700-pound blind California sea lion named Buddy has taken up residence at the Los Angeles Zoo, where his vocalizations can be heard throughout the 133-acre (54-hectare) facility. The zoo said Monday the approximately 10-year-old sea lion is adapting well to his habitat at the Sea Life Cliffs exhibit since arriving in late May. Unable to hunt or defend himself, the huge pinniped was malnourished, emaciated and blind when he was rescued at Manhattan Beach in July 2016 and brought to the Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles. He was rehabilitated for 10 months but could not be released due to his injuries and blindness, so the zoo took him in. Buddy lives with several harbor seals but the zoo expects more sea lions.

Bourbon, pizzas and now spaghetti sauce cover Arkansas roads

CAMDEN, Ark. (AP)—It's a smorgasbord on Arkansas highways, with the third food spill in as many weeks. A truck driver distracted by a GPS unit crashed near the intersection of U.S. 278 and Arkansas 24 at Camden early Monday and spilled a truckload of spaghetti sauce. On Aug. 2, a tank car filled with bourbon crashed on Interstate 40 in eastern Arkansas and motorists on Interstate 30 had to leave the highway at Little Rock on Aug. 9 after a truck accident left frozen pizzas scattered about. Camden police Sgt. Cory Sanders said the spaghetti sauce truck was headed to Dallas about 3 a.m. when its driver became distracted, then overcorrected and rolled over after crossing the center line of the highway. Sanders said the driver suffered minor injuries.

To E or not to E—USC didn't in spelling Shakespeare's name

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Visitors to the University of Southern California might well be muttering, "What fools these mortals be" as they stroll past a statue of the legendary queen of Troy and notice William Shakespeare's name seemingly misspelled at its base. To USC officials, it's much ado about nothing. "To E, or not to E, that is the question," the school responded in a statement Tuesday when asked why Shakespeare's name is missing the last letter E in a quotation attributed to him. The school noted Shakespeare has been spelled nearly two dozen different ways over the years. Officials say they settled on Shakespear, a spelling popular in the 18th century, because of the "ancient feel" sculptor Christopher Slatoff brought to his larger-than-life bronze work of Queen Hecuba.

Science & Technology

TECH Q&A: Jitterbug phone not dancing with PC

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I bought a Jitterbug Flip phone last December, and was able to transfer the pictures I took with it to my Windows 10 PC. But after a Windows 10 update earlier this year, my PC can't recognize the phone to transfer the photos.

I got a replacement Jitterbug Flip, but the PC couldn't read it, either. What can I do?

A: The Jitterbug Flip is an inexpensive, no-frills phone, and that limits your photo-transfer options. Because the phone lacks internet or email access, and has no removable memory card, you are supposed to transfer the photos to your PC via a USB cable.

But make sure you're using the cable correctly. The USB cable must be connected to the USB port on the side of the phone. If the USB cable is plugged into the phone's charging dock, your PC won't be able to recognize the phone.

If you have the cable connected properly, a Windows 10 update may be interfering with your PC's ability to read the Jitterbug Flip. In that case, there's a workaround that uses Facebook.

Use your PC to set up an online account with the manufacturer of the phone, GreatCall Inc. (see tinyurl.com/y7nvow4m). That will allow you to share photos directly from your phone to Facebook (see the Jitterbug Flip User Guide at tinyurl.com/ybqb3wdf, then scroll down to "Sharing photos on Facebook" on pages 70 and 71.)

Once you've shared the photos, you'll be able to download them to your PC from Facebook (click on the Facebook photo, hover your cursor over it, click "options," then click "download.")

Q: I read your column about importing a contact list from Frontier email to Gmail, which was complicated by the fact that Frontier was really using Yahoo's email service (see tinyurl.com/y7uerd3h).

Are the steps the same when importing an address book from a provider that uses its own email service?

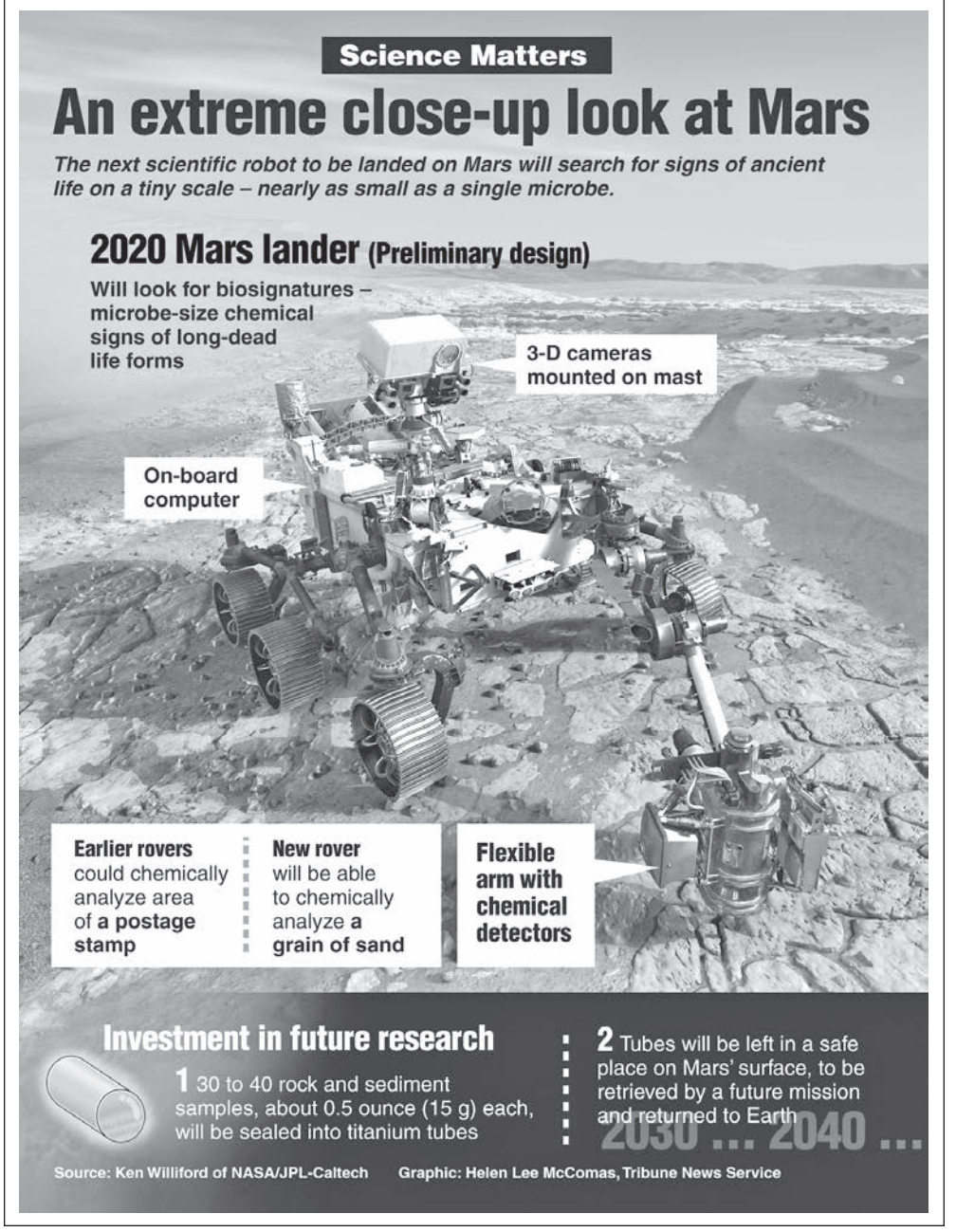
A: No, it's much easier because Google has largely automated the process. To import an address book directly from another modern email system (such as Yahoo Mail, Outlook.com or AOL) to Gmail, see tinyurl.com/ybcqgxgu.

Q: I read your column about importing the email address book from Frontier to Gmail. Can you tell me how to move my Juno email address book to Gmail?

A: The Juno email software is too antiquated to easily transfer Juno contacts to Gmail or any other modern email system.

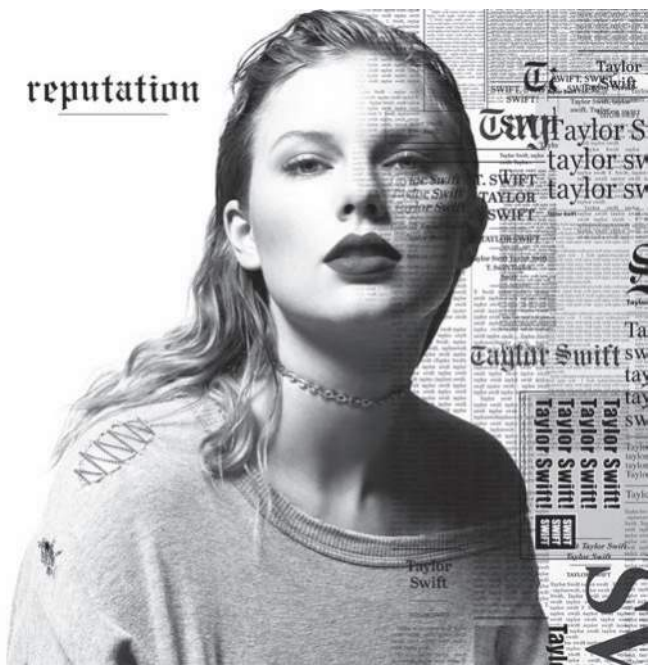
Why? Juno provides no command for exporting its address book to a PC as a. csv (Comma-Separated Values) file, the standard way of moving contact lists from one email system to another. As a result, I suggest that you go to your Juno address book and click "print contacts," then "print." Then manually re-enter the printed data into Gmail.

Alternatively, you can delve into the source code for Juno and try to create a. csv file (see tinyurl.com/y9vl5spo). It's pretty technical, and I don't recommend it.


Science Matters
An extreme close-up look at Mars
The next scientific robot to be landed on Mars will search for signs of ancient life on a tiny scale – nearly as small as a single microbe.
2020 Mars lander (Preliminary design)
Will look for biosignatures – microbe-size chemical signs of long-dead life forms
3-D cameras mounted on mast
On-board computer
Earlier rovers could chemically analyze area of a postage stamp
New rover will be able to chemically analyze a grain of sand
Flexible arm with chemical detectors
Investment in future research
1 30 to 40 rock and sediment samples, about 0.5 ounce (15 g) each, will be sealed into titanium tubes
2 Tubes will be left in a safe place on Mars' surface, to be retrieved by a future mission and returned to Earth
2030 ... 2040 ...
Source: Ken Williford of NASA/JPL-Caltech
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Taylor Swift ends intrigue, announces new album in November



This cover image released by Big Machine shows art for her upcoming album, "reputation," expected Nov. 10. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Yes, Taylor Swift fans, Wednesday was a lucky one for you.

The pop star who whipped her army of Swifties into a frenzy with video snippets of slithery snake parts on social media posted the title of her new album, "Reputation," and announced online it will be out Nov. 10.

The first single, she said in a series of posts, will drop Thursday night. And she threw in the album's cover art for good measure: a black-and-white photo of herself—head and shoulders, in slouchy sweater, hair swept back—against a backdrop of newsprint reading, simply, "Taylor Swift" over and over again.

Swift, who is followed by millions on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, wiped her feeds clean Friday and replaced the black void Monday with the first of three reptilian videos, each offering just a tad more of a snake, from tail to squirmy middle and finally its beady red eyes and ominous fangs lunging briefly at the camera.

The teasers put fans on high alert, and the snake imagery evoked snake emojis used against her in various dis-fests last year, including one with Kim Kardashian West after West claimed Swift knew about hubby Kanye's reference to Swift in his song "Famous."

The album would be Swift's sixth studio effort and the first since the 2014 release of "1989," which is the last time she teased fans online, that round with mysterious Polaroid photographs. She scrubbed her feeds Friday of everything from profile pictures to accounts she follows.

It was three years to the date from when she dropped the song "Shake It Off" and announced "1989"—and just a few days after her courtroom assault trial victory against a former radio DJ in Denver.

Word of a new album lifted Swift to a top trending topic around the world Wednesday on Twitter ahead of Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, to be hosted by Katy Perry, a former friend.

'Hellboy' casting of white actor again prompts backlash over 'whitewashing'

In this April 9, 2016 file photo, Ed Skrein arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Burbank, Calif. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—A Hollywood film yet again finds itself responding to a social-media outcry over the casting of a white actor in a role that was originally Asian-American.

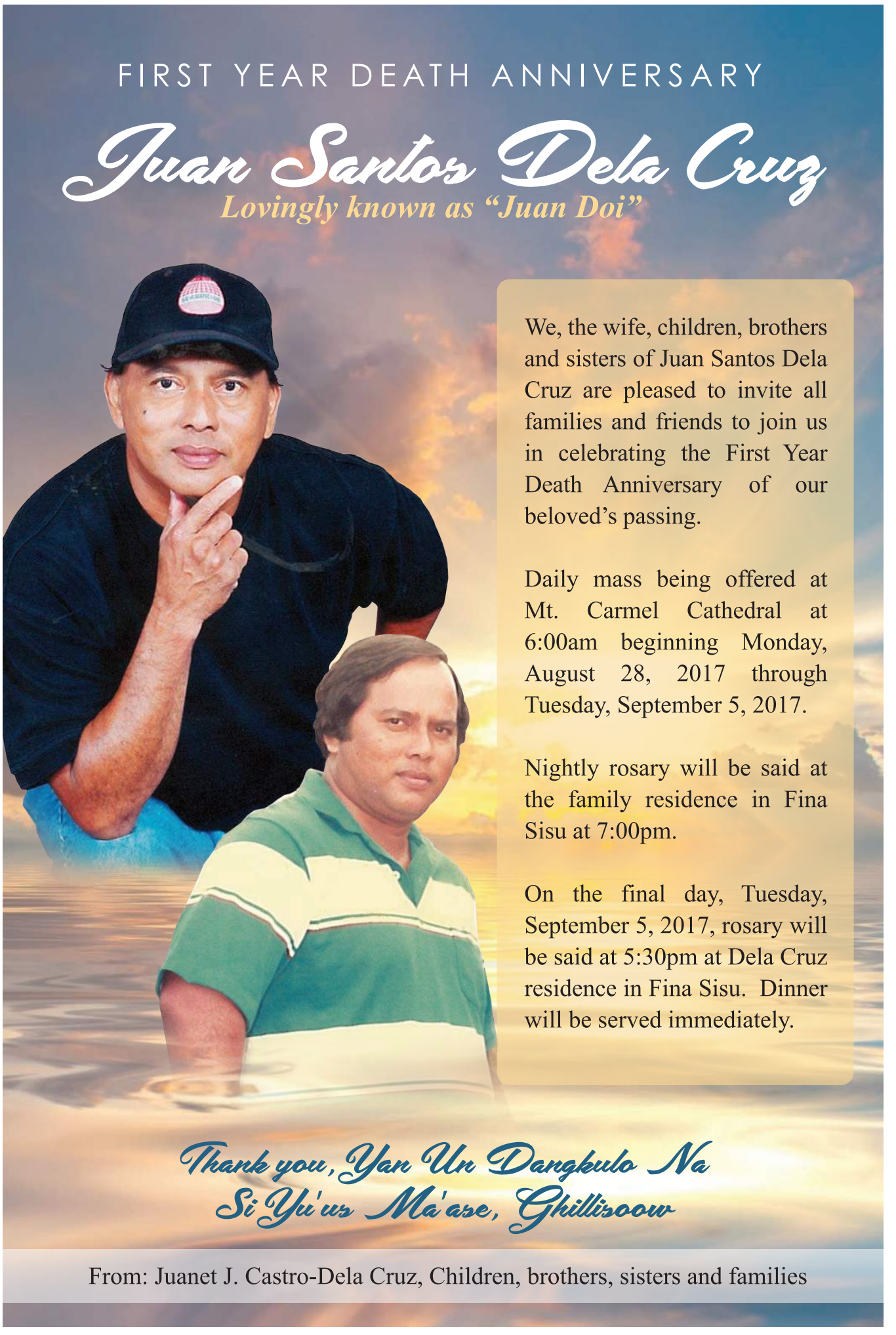
British actor Ed Skrein earlier this week joined the cast of the "Hellboy" reboot "Rise of the Blood Queen," which is to be the third film in the comic adaptation franchise previously helmed by Guillermo del Toro. The character, Ben Daimio, is Japanese-American in Mike Mignola's "Hellboy" comics and his heritage is central to his backstory. Daimio's grandmother was a Japanese Imperial assassin in World War II.

Many objected to the role not going to an Asian-American actor and called it another example of Hollywood "whitewashing" Asian characters. "I guess they want this to fail," said actress Cindy Chu on Twitter.

The film's distributor, Lionsgate, declined comment. A representative for Skrein didn't respond to queries Wednesday.

The backlash follows previous controversies including the castings of Emma Stone as a half-Hawaiian, half-Chinese Air Force pilot in Cameron Crowe's "Aloha" and Scarlett Johansson as the cyborg protagonist in the Japanese anime remake "Ghost in the Shell." This week's Netflix release, the Japanese manga adaptation "Death Note" also drew criticism for transferring a Japanese story to Seattle without any Asian actors.

Though Masamune Shirow, director of the original "Ghost in the Shell," defended Johansson's casting, many lambasted the choice.


FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Juan Santos Dela Cruz
Lovingly known as "Juan Doi"
We, the wife, children, brothers and sisters of Juan Santos Dela Cruz are pleased to invite all families and friends to join us in celebrating the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing.
Daily mass being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am beginning Monday, August 28, 2017 through Tuesday, September 5, 2017.
Nightly rosary will be said at the family residence in Fina Sisu at 7:00pm.
On the final day, Tuesday, September 5, 2017, rosary will be said at 5:30pm at Dela Cruz residence in Fina Sisu. Dinner will be served immediately.
Thank you, Yan Un Dangkulo Na
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisoow
From: Juanet J. Castro-Dela Cruz, Children, brothers, sisters and families

First Year Death Anniversary

†Melencio Yao Guevarra

We, the family of the late
†Melencio Yao Guevarra:
Wife: Zhenie Pili Guevarra
Son: Jordan, Patrick & James Guevarra
Daughters:
Meldes and Juan (Carlos & Sophia);
Sheila and Tim (Scarlet & Skylar);

Invite all our relatives and friends
to join us in prayers as we
commemorate the passing of our
dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass at 6:00pm at San Antonio Church
except on Sunday, at 9:00am.
Rosary is scheduled on August 27th at 7:00pm
at Sunset View Apt., Koblerville.
Dinner will be served after the rosary.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

SI YU'US MA'ASE, THANK YOU & SALAMAT PO!

Zhenie and Family

For more information, contact Zhenie at 285-8044

Star Wars toy launch to unveil new 'Last Jedi' character

AP

This image released by Lucasfilm shows a scene from the upcoming "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," expected in theaters in December.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" is still a few months away from hitting theaters, but BB-8-happy fans are about to get a glimpse at a new character as a part of a three-day marketing rollout of toys and products inspired by the film.

The Walt Disney Company said Thursday that the global event, dubbed Force Friday II, will feature an augmented reality treasure hunt called Find the Force. Using the Star Wars app in the 20,000 participating locations in 30 countries, fans can snap photos of the Find the Force symbol to find old favorites, like Admiral Ackbar, and discover a new character from "The Last Jedi" too.

Augmented reality, which superimposes interactive images onto a person's real-world surroundings using their smartphone or other device, became a sensation with the hit video game "Pokemon Go."

"Star Wars has always championed new technology, and we are excited that augmented reality will allow fans to experience the universe in a whole new way," said Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy in a statement.

It's a departure from the Force Friday blitz in 2015, which featured an 18-hour live-streamed unboxing of the products in promotion of "The Force Awakens."

Force Friday II runs from Sept. 1 through Sept. 3. There are 15 total AG characters to find across the three days.

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" blasts into theaters on Dec. 15. It is the eighth installment in the core "Star Wars" franchise that follows the force-sensitive Skywalker family.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Alicia Illisari Quitugua

Lovingly known as "Alice"

Born: May 12, 1955
Called to eternal life on August 18, 2017

In her new life she now joins her:
Grandparents: †Juan Dela Cruz Quitugua & †Consolation Norita Sablan
Father: †Florencio Sablan Quitugua
Brother & Sisters: †Juan Illisari Quitugua, †Luise Illisari Quitugua, †Remedio Concepcion Quitugua Falig

She will always be in the hearts of her:
Mother: Adela Illisari Quitugua
Children: **Rodney** Q. Reyes & Majesty Jessy (Damian, Jeremiah, Rodney Jr., Rocky)
Jaime Q. Reyes & Ping (Nalicia)
Jason Q. Reyes & Kim Tebuteb (Elaijah, Kiara, Aiden)
Henry Q. Reyes & Gina (Alec, Kale, Aden, Adam)
Jenny N. Deleon Guerrero & Noel (Domonique, Elyna, Noel, Tristine, Tristan)
Dean Borja & Jayda Babauta (Jasmine, Frankie Boy)
Sylvestre Q. Tomokane (Madeline)
Siblings: Carmen Q. Brown, Sofina I. Quitugua, Matilde I. Quitugua, Luise Q. Noisom, Virginia Q. Richards, Theresita Q. Phillips, Jose I. Quitugua, Mercedes Q. Deleon Guerrero, Juan I. Quitugua, Diana Q. Gabaldon, Lydia I. Quitugua

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily Mass is being held at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag followed by Rosary at 7pm.
Mass of Christian Burial will be on August 26, 2017 at Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag at 10:00am.
Followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.
Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated. Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todos.

The Family

Bruno Mars meets source of nickname: Bruno Sammartino

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Bruno Mars has met the man he's nicknamed after: former pro wrestling champion Bruno Sammartino.

The two met Tuesday night when the pop singing sensation's 24K Magic World Tour stopped in Pittsburgh.

Sammartino heard through friends that Mars, born Peter Gene Hernandez, was nicknamed "Bruno" by his father because he was a "chunky" baby. The wrestling legend—now 81—was about 275 pounds in his prime and the favorite wrestler of Mars' father.

Sammartino told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he didn't know much about Mars before the meeting, but came away "extremely impressed."

"I hope he's like that in everyday life. He was the most humble, nicest guy," Sammartino said. "He couldn't have been more respectful."

AP

This Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017, photo provided by Shaun Hoffman, shows Bruno Mars, left, meeting retired professional wrestler Bruno Sammartino, right, as Mars holds Sammartino's world champion belt, coinciding with a concert as part of Mars' 24K Magic World Tour in Pittsburgh.

Sammartino jokingly gave Mars a picture of himself in his wrestling "prime" to prove he was more muscular than chunky, and a replica of his championship belt from what was then known as the World-Wide Wrestling Federation. The group is now known as World Wrestling Entertainment, or WWE.

Mars posted a picture of the meeting on Instagram saying, "I was nicknamed after this professional wrestler Bruno Sammartino. Tonight in Pittsburgh I had the honor of meeting him!"

Mars, 31, told the website RapUP in a May 2010 interview that his dad nicknamed him for the wrestler.

"Bruno is after Bruno Sammartino, who was this big fat wrestler. I guess I was this chunky little baby, so my dad used to call me that as a nickname," Mars said. "The Mars came up just because I felt like I didn't have no pizzazz, and a lot of girls say I'm out of this world, so I was like 'I guess I'm from Mars.'"

Sammartino said Mars got curious enough about his career to check out clips of him in YouTube. He told Sammartino that he planned to chat with his father about the meeting.

"He told me, 'You know, I called my dad and told him I was going to meet with you today and he was so excited," Sammartino said

George Strait, Dolly Parton, late Glen Campbell given honors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The country music community honored the late Glen Campbell during the 11th annual Academy of Country Music Honors in Nashville, Tennessee, following his death this month at the age of 81.

Campbell's family was in attendance Wednesday night to watch the performance by Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Maren Morris at the Ryman Auditorium.

Morris sang "Galveston," a signature hit for the country star, actor and television personality with boyish good looks and friendly tenor. Campbell announced in 2011 that he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

"It's just really comforting to us to know that Glen is so well respected and admired and that he has influenced so many entertainers throughout the years," Kim Campbell, his widow, told The Associated Press prior to the show.

His son, Cal Campbell, said there has been an outpouring of messages from fans all over the country since his death on Aug. 8. He was buried in a private funeral in his hometown of Delight, Arkansas.

"People just talking about how he changed their life, gave them a reason to pick up the guitar, helped them turn their life around and leave substance abuse behind," Campbell said.

Other country icons were also honored during the awards show, which was taped and will air on CBS on Sept. 15. Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire and George Strait were all feted with performances by Brad Paisley, Hillary Scott, Kimberly Schlapman and Karen Fairchild of Little Big Town, Chris Stapleton and Alan Jackson.

Additional honorees were the late author and songwriter Shel Silverstein, Toby Keith, Kelsea Ballerini, songwriter Lori McKenna, radio host Bob Kingsley and the cast and crew of the TV show "Nashville."

The ACMs also recognized several musicians, producers and engineers, as well as musical venues.

Rod Stewart to perform remotely on MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Rod Stewart will perform a reworked version of his hit "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?" remotely from Las Vegas at the MTV Video Music Awards, to be held in California.

MTV announced Wednesday that Stewart will perform the 1978 song with pop band DNCE on Sunday. The network said Demi Lovato will also perform remotely from Vegas.

The 2017 VMAs will take place at the Forum in Inglewood, California. Performers include Kendrick Lamar, Ed Sheeran, Pink, Miley Cyrus, the Weeknd, Lorde, Shawn Mendes, Fifth Harmony and host Katy Perry.

On Tuesday, MTV announced an additional award—song of summer. Luis Fonsi's "Despacito" earned a nomination in the late-added category, but the record-breaking video wasn't included in other VMA categories because it hasn't been played on MTV or MTV2.

Trevor Noah among nominees for Thurber humor prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Trevor Noah is upholding a "Daily Show" tradition: He's a nominee for the Thurber Prize for American Humor.

The Comedy Central host's memoir "Born a Crime" was among three finalists prize officials announced Wednesday. The other nominees for the $5,000 honor are playwright-screenwriter Ken Pisani's novel "Amp'd" and Aaron Thier's time traveling novel "Mr. Eternity."

Previous winners include Noah's "Daily Show" predecessor Jon Stewart, Calvin Trillin and David Sedaris.

Because all three nominees this year are men, the winner will uphold another tradition: Only once since the award was established in 1997 has a woman received it. Julie Schumacher won in 2015 for "Dear Committee Members."

Showtime to air rare Prince music film, 'Sign O' the Times'

NEW YORK (AP)—A rare Prince music film, "Sign O' the Times," will air on Showtime beginning Sept. 16.

Directed by Prince himself, the film was created as an in-theater companion to his 1987 double album of the same name. The movie features performances and other scenes shot mostly at his Minneapolis studio complex, Paisley Park, with some tour footage from concerts in the Netherlands and Belgium.

The 84-minute film captures Prince at a critical period, just after he disbanded his band, The Revolution, but it didn't perform well in U.S. theaters and his vision of a true live concert documentary was dashed by poor sound quality.

Some critics have hailed "Sign O' the Times" as one of the best concert films ever made.

Mom's painful past is warning to girls about teen drinking

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of two teenaged girls (13 and 15) and have been debating whether to tell them a secret about my past. When I was in high school, I made some poor decisions. I went to a party with people I viewed as friends, had too much to drink and the evening ended with my being raped by someone I thought I knew.

I reported it to my parents and the police, but because I couldn't remember big parts of the evening, I wasn't considered credible and no one believed me—not even my parents. My grades dropped, my weight plummeted and the entire school knew and believed his side of the story.

I internalized everything and became a shell of who I was before the incident. It was years before I forgave myself for making a horrible mistake. Ultimately, I moved in with my grandmother several states away to finish high school, far away from my parents and the pain.

Would it be appropriate to share this story (or a redacted version) with my daughters to help them understand the risks of teenage drinking? They are at the age when they are surrounded by temptation and curiosity, and their father and I can't shield them from everything. Would I be doing them a disservice by not telling them?

UNDECIDED IN NEVADA

DEAR UNDECIDED: You would be doing your daughters a favor if, along with warning them about underage drinking, you shared your story with them. If you do, it will help them understand that drinking can have unintended, sometimes lifelong consequences. Forewarned is forearmed.

DEAR ABBY: Is it possible to have a relationship with a man 20 years younger? I rented my spare room to him, and over the past month, we have spent a lot of time together and grown very close.

He has made it clear that he's attracted to me, and I'm attracted to him as well. I am afraid of what people may think and say, and I worry about the long term. What are your thoughts?

RELATIONSHIP ISSUE

DEAR ISSUE: I gather from your letter that you are 40-plus years old. If you are still worried about what people may think, refrain from doing what you're considering, because people do tend to talk. Since no one can predict how long the "long term" might be, my advice is to guard your heart. Because there are no guarantees in life, proceed with caution.

DEAR ABBY: When you are on the phone with someone and the call is dropped, who is supposed to call who back? I spent five minutes trying to call my mom back while she was trying to call me. It was very frustrating; both of us kept getting voicemail.

Mom says the person who received the call should be the person who calls back. I say the person who MADE the call should be the person who calls back.

UNSURE IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR UNSURE: While I agree with you, no rule of etiquette dictates who should call the other person back in the event of a dropped call. Long waits also happen when a caller doesn't realize the call has dropped and continues talking. Frankly, it has been my experience that the callback is usually made by the person who can get through first. And the first sentence uttered is usually, "So, where were we?"

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

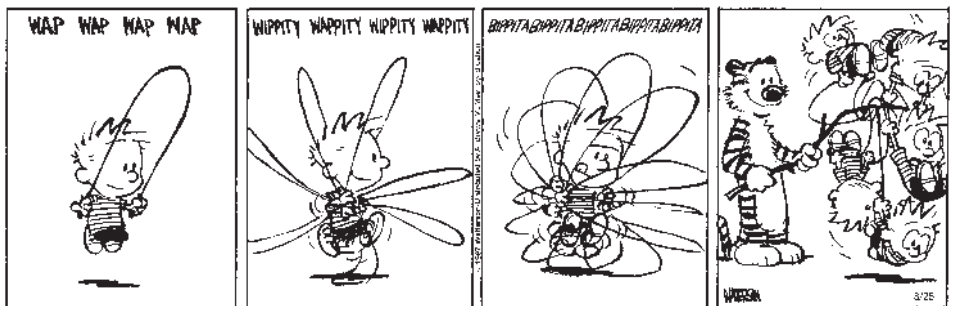
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

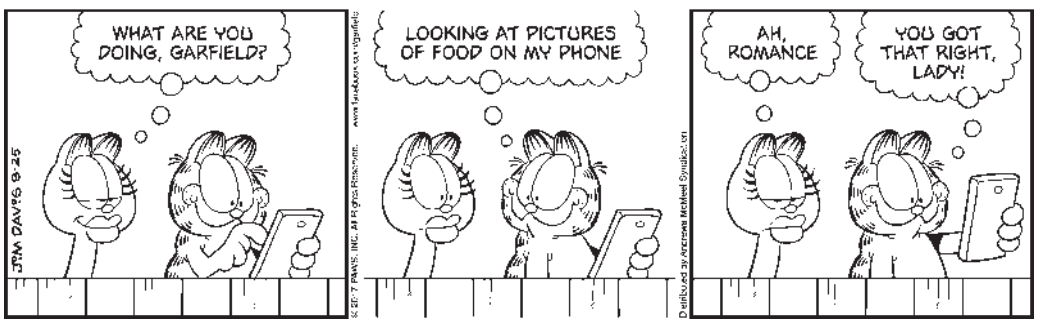
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THIS IS A SHOW ABOUT COFFEE FANATICS. CAN YOU SPICE IT UP?
SURE.
WHAT IF I DRANK, LIKE, SIX POTS OF COFFEE SO I'M BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS?
HMM.
WILL YOUR EYES GET ALL GOOGLY?
SO GOOGLY. AND SOMETIMES STEAM SHOOTS OUT OF MY NOSE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sound of relief
4 Recipe abbr.
7 Striped housecat
12 Conk out
13 "— Lazy River"
14 Penned
15 Fawn's mama
16 "Sing louder!"
18 Right angle
19 Suitor
20 Platter
22 Where Lux. is
23 Tied
27 "Awe-some!"
29 Realm
31 Do-nothing
34 Brag
35 Not even close
37 Upper limit
38 Portent
39 Old Olds-mobile
41 Cater-waul
45 Looks after
47 — Paulo
48 Get into a fist fight
52 — -cone
53 Labor group
54 Browns, on score-boards
55 Egos' counter-parts
56 Marriage notice
57 With it, once
58 Jargon suffix

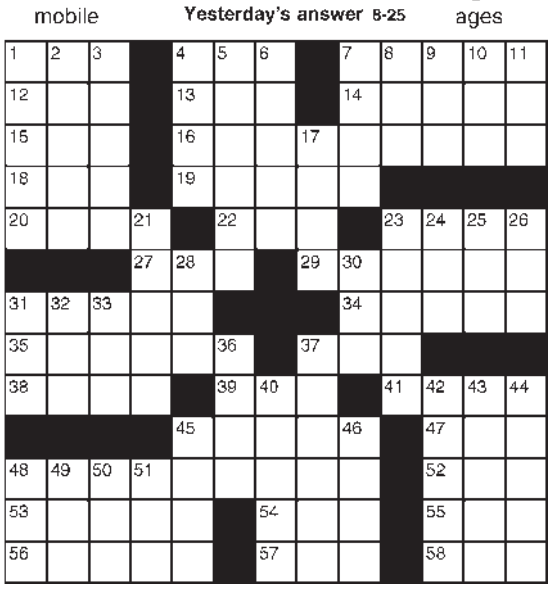
DOWN

1 Threw in
2 Garlicky mayo
3 Cads
4 Vats
5 Gushed
6 2005 "Survivor" setting
7 Clone
8 Illustra-tions
9 Scary cry
10 A/C stat
11 Even so
17 Ersatz swing
21 Anti-gone's con-demner
23 Strong adhesive
24 By way of
25 Triage ctrs.
26 Profit
28 Canine cry
30 CEO's deg.
31 — Jima
32 Weir
33 Caustic solution
36 Worry
37 Lunar craft
40 Son of Cain
42 Actor Davis
43 Magic sticks
44 Unfet-tered
45 Metal boxes
46 Dance move
48 Fix the sound-track
49 Italian article
50 Family
51 Ages and ages

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	S	■	N	A	R	C	■	V	C	W	S
I	D	A	■	U	S	E	R	■	■	R	E	S
S	A	N	C	I	I	H	Y	■	N	E	A	I
■	■	S	A	M	■	S	E	C	■	O	R	S
A	N	K	L	E	S	■	R	A	N	■	■	■
C	O	R	■	G	O	T	■	R	E	P	O	S
A	R	I	D	■	B	A	Y	■	R	A	N	T
R	A	T	E	D	■	B	A	M	■	R	C	A
■	■	■	S	U	M	■	M	A	D	M	E	N
S	■	E	P	D	A	D	■	R	O	E	■	■
H	A	R	I	■	P	A	R	T	■	■	S	A	N
A	■	I	T	■	■	I	I	I	■	A	B	A
M	A	C	F	■	F	S	P	N	■	N	U	B

Yesterday's answer 8-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blake Lively, 30; Tim Burton, 59; Elvis Costello, 63; Sean Connery, 87.

Happy Birthday: Don't let temptation get the best of you this year. Look over details carefully and read the fine print before you agree to any sort of change that will affect your home, professional position or your relationship with partners. Look for the simple yet effective way to accomplish your goals and you will avoid being taken advantage of. Your numbers are 9, 13, 18, 21, 24, 33, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A change in your environment will leave you at odds about your next move. Give whatever situation you face time to settle before you make a decision that will change an important relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An unexpected situation will surface quickly. Refuse to get caught up in the moment. Consider the pros and cons before you engage in an emotionally draining encounter. If someone pressures you or uses emotional manipulation, walk away. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Express your emotions openly and you will be able to bridge a gap that has been causing problems between you and someone you deal with regularly. Compromise will help you find common ground. Be willing to do the legwork. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Partnership troubles will surface if you let your emotions take over. Get the facts and take time to digest the information. Excessive behavior will lead to weight gain or poor health. Focus on yourself, not what others are doing. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep the momentum going. Stay on top of whatever job or responsibility you've been given until you finish. Living up to your word will result in added respect and favors from people counting on you. Home improvements are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Consider your current position and how you earn your living, but don't let an incident push you to make an impulsive decision that could disrupt your cash flow. Protect against loss as well as impulsive purchases. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep your life simple, be direct and don't let your emotions take over. Someone will take advantage of your vulnerability if you are too open about the way you feel. Keep business and personal matters separate. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Hidden matters, secrets and personal information should be protected. Someone will be pushy and persuasive in order to get you to disclose matters that could make you look bad. Stay focused on making positive personal gains and changes. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* An opportunity to get ahead professionally is apparent. Send out your resume or set up interviews. Don't make any changes that will be costly. Negotiate on your own behalf and take care of personal finances and health issues. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Too much of anything will lead to distractions, mistakes and mishaps. Don't trust anyone to take care of your responsibilities or personal affairs. Do your best to keep the peace and to offer kindness over discord. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't let others' reactions deter you from following through with your plans. A personal contract you share with someone will be challenged. Don't make assumptions or overreact. Keep the peace and work on making self-improvements, not trying to change others. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Someone will take advantage of you if you are gullible. Don't let anyone play on your emotions or talk you into making changes that aren't going to help you get ahead. Work quietly toward your goals, not some else's agenda. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are progressive, responsive and insightful. You are persistent and persuasive.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4			3	8		2	
					9			
7			5					3
5	9					4		
2								7
		4					5	6
3					1			9
			4					
	6		7	5			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	9	2	3	8	7	5	4	1
3	8	5	1	4	2	9	7	6
4	1	7	9	5	6	3	2	8
7	5	9	2	1	4	8	6	3
1	4	8	6	3	5	7	9	2
2	3	6	7	9	8	1	5	4
9	2	1	5	6	3	4	8	7
8	6	3	4	7	9	2	1	5
5	7	4	8	2	1	6	3	9

Difficulty level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MARTIN LANDAU (1928-2017) **Solution: 10 letters**

D	A	E	R	E	K	O	P	K	R	N	I	M	O	Y
R	O	R	M	N	N	I	N	E	R	Y	T	R	A	M
E	F	O	A	B	A	P	S	E	O	A	E	W	E	L
A	L	R	W	B	E	L	S	T	V	M	D	O	L	E
M	P	R	A	D	R	R	W	A	I	A	T	R	D	O
I	R	E	Y	N	E	A	N	T	O	H	H	T	D	N
T	A	K	E	D	K	L	B	R	G	T	O	H	I	A
O	C	C	N	E	A	E	B	I	H	H	R	A	M	R
O	S	U	O	W	S	S	N	I	N	G	S	L	O	D
F	O	T	M	B	H	E	S	W	S	I	E	Y	R	L
R	A	A	T	E	I	L	U	J	E	S	L	A	R	U
Ⓐ	N	I	C	A	N	I	S	T	B	E	O	L	I	G
G	Ⓛ	A	T	C	E	F	A	S	T	E	N	P	S	O
U	P	Ⓔ	D	H	R	X	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	S
S	E	L	Ⓑ	M	U	R	H	P	A	R	T	T	E	I

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BAPS, Barbara, Beach, Bela, Best, Broadway, Dark, Dream, Ed Wood, Ember, Faith, Frankenweenie, Haven, Horse, Hotel, Impossible, Juliet, Lawman, Leonard, Lugosi, Marty, Middle, Mission, Money, Morris, Night, Nimoy, Nine, Oscar, Part, Play, Poker, Post, Prank, Rounders, Rumble, Selma, Shiner, Sight, Space, Sugarfoot, Susan, Tate, Time, Tucker, Wake, Worth, X Files

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TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 31, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      (1) July 27, 2017

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   a. Fiscal Year 2018 - TCGCC Budget

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VII. **LICENSING MATTERS**
   a. Casino Service Industry License – ED2017-02.CSI
      SG Gaming Asia Limited

VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Applications are available at www.marianasgeotech.com, and at the MGS office in Dandan, and must be submitted by **4:30 p.m. on September 1, 2017**, to Chelsea Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office. For more information, please contact 234-7645.

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Underdog Isaiah Thomas facing biggest challenge of career

BOSTON (AP)—Isaiah Thomas' basketball journey is littered with decision-makers who have underestimated the diminutive guard.

He was selected last in the 2011 NBA draft coming out of Washington, and when he arrived in Boston he looked only to be a role player for the storied franchise. Thomas has had to prove his worth with every stop.

Now, following the biggest slight of his NBA career, he'll have to do it again.

All eyes will be watching how he rebounds after Tuesday's blockbuster trade. The Celtics sent the two-time All-Star packing from a franchise and city that he'd embraced with every ounce of his 5-foot-9 frame. He's now bound for Cleveland in exchange for a bigger star—and what the Celtics believe is a better point guard for them—in Kyrie Irving.

For all the praise Boston president of basketball operations Danny Ainge showered on Thomas in explaining what he's meant to the Celtics, the organization took Irving—a four-time All-Star, Olympic and NBA champion—over the scrappy underdog who's just beginning to build his resume.

It's the ultimate reminder of how fickle the business of the NBA can be.

"I'll leave it to your own imaginations to realize how difficult that conversation might have been for me and Isaiah," Ainge said of informing Thomas of the trade.

Difficult perhaps, but it underscores the fact that an NBA executive with a moniker like "Trader Danny" clearly prioritizes the pursuit of championships over personal bonds.

"You do pay a heavy price for a player of that age and that caliber," Ainge said of acquiring Irving.

Many have paid a hefty price for undervaluing Thomas, and Ainge may not be done paying yet.

Thomas always plays with a chip on his shoulder and he was not only traded for a player who plays the same position, in the same conference, but he was dealt to the team Ainge and the Celtics are trying to beat. Now he will be playing alongside arguably the best player in the world in LeBron James, and both will be motivated to deny Boston a shot at the title—once again.

It was just three months ago that Thomas was trudging into the most melancholy offseason of his six-year career. The 28-year-old was battered after leading Boston to the top seed in the Eastern Conference, only to have a hip injury leave him sidelined for the majority of the conference finals in an unsuccessful bid to unseat James and the Cavaliers.

But that journey also was overshadowed by the sudden death of his younger sister on the eve of the playoffs and losing a tooth during Boston's second-round series with Washington. It was the Celtics and Ainge that stood behind their star at every turn. Ainge twice arranged private flights for Thomas to mourn with his family, and even accompanied him to Chyna Thomas' funeral.

Boston's fans were equally supportive, wrapping support around a player that had not only performed on the court, but was an active presence in the community.

It was those types of overtures and expressions that made Thomas optimistic about a future with a storied franchise and in a city that has always rallied behind its stars. Yes, Thomas knew it was possible he might not stay in Boston, but he expected to be here.

"Boston's has changed my career and changed my life," Thomas said in May. "I would love to be here long-term and win championships here. But as you guys know, it's a business and anything can happen. I know that. So I understand, but I would love to be here. This has been everything to me. This city, this organization...It's been good."

And just like that, everything has changed.

In today's NBA, stars of Thomas' caliber usually switch teams in the prime of their careers on their own volition. But he found himself at the center of a deal involving a bigger, more valued star.

It reminds longtime NBA executive Pat Williams of when as general manager of the Atlanta Hawks he dealt All-Star "Pistol" Pete Maravich to the New Orleans Jazz.

"Pete was shocked but, it turned out to be a good deal for him," Williams said. "He had his best years in New Orleans."

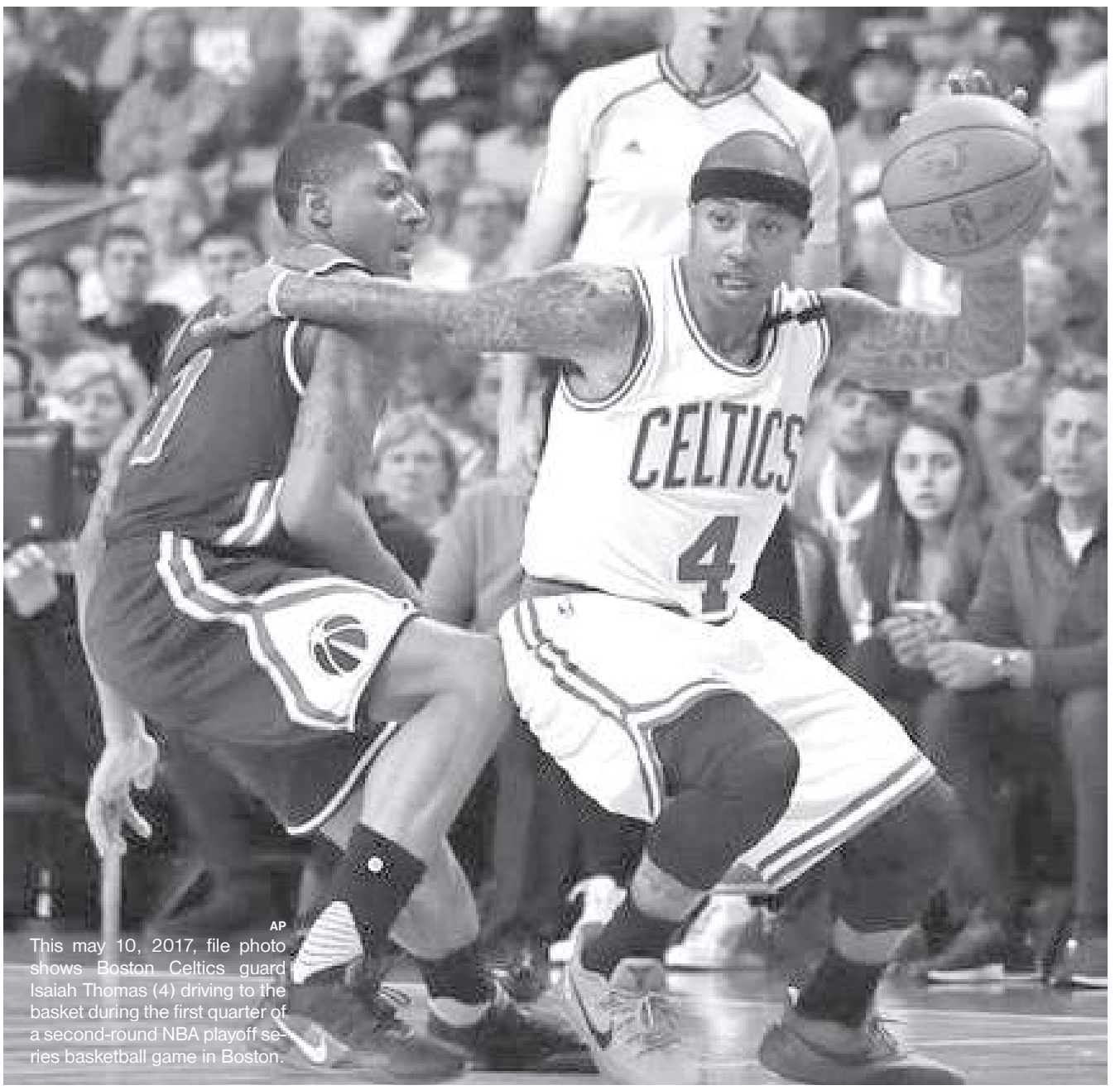
Maravich continued to be a fan-favorite in Atlanta, and Thomas will never be a villain in Boston. But the Celtics may not be happy when Thomas comes back to town.

Thomas is heading to a team that has recently broken the hearts of Celtics fans and that will be favored to do it again.

Add to the mix that in Thomas, James gets probably the only player on the planet that will be as motivated as him to stave off a rebuilt Celtics roster led by his former sidekick.

The Celtics-Cavaliers matchups and all the subplots will make for must-see viewing.

It also makes for welcome intrigue to what had become a predictable Eastern Conference.



AP

This may 10, 2017, file photo shows Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) driving to the basket during the first quarter of a second-round NBA playoff series basketball game in Boston.

Irving will wear No. 11 with Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—Newly acquired guard Kyrie Irving will wear No. 11 in Boston because the Celtics already have retired the numbers he wore in college and with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Irving wore No. 11 at two New Jersey high schools before switching to No. 1 at Duke. He wore No. 2 with the Cavaliers for the first six years of his NBA career.

The Celtics retired No. 1 for founder and original owner Walter Brown. They retired No. 2 for former coach and general manager Red Auerbach.

In all, the Celtics have retired 21 numbers, with Paul Pierce's No. 34 next in line for the TD Garden rafters.

Supporters want Colin Kaepernick signed by NFL season start

NEW YORK (AP)—Supporters of former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who refused to stand for the national anthem to protest police brutality against blacks, showed their solidarity with him and his cause at a rally outside National Football League headquarters on Wednesday, demanding that he be signed by the start of the regular season next month.

More than 1,000 people, many wearing jerseys bearing Kaepernick's name, crowded the steps outside the NFL's midtown Manhattan offices.

Kaepernick, who once took the 49ers to the Super Bowl, opted out of his contract with the team in March and remains unsigned. Supporters say he is being blackballed for his advocacy, but some critics say he should not have sat or kneeled during the anthem or contend his lack of a job is more about his on-field talent.

Chants at the demonstration included "Boycott! Boycott!"

Women's March organizer Tamika Mallory, addressing football fans, said, "I don't care how long you've been watching football, if they don't stand up for your children, turn the damn TV off."

Some speakers said the league's treatment of Kaepernick is of a piece with a cavalier attitude toward players' health.

"How in the world can we call ourselves the land of the free, the home of the brave, and you get vilified and criminalized just for speaking your mind?" the Rev. Jamal Bryant said. "The NFL has proven with their treatment of Colin Kaepernick that they do not mind if black players get a concussion, they just got a problem if black players get a conscience."

Earlier Wednesday, the NAACP called for a meeting with the NFL to discuss the fate of Kaepernick, who was born to a white woman and a black man but was adopted by a white couple. The civil rights organization's interim president, Derrick Johnson, said in a letter to the NFL's commissioner, Roger Goodell, that it's apparently "no sheer coincidence" that Kaepernick isn't on a roster.

"No player should be victimized and discriminated against because of his exercise of free speech—to do so is in violation of his rights under the Constitution and the NFL's own regulations," Johnson said.

The NAACP's state president in New York, Hazel Dukes, said: "Right now, the action of the league seems to imply to young black men that this league, which is comprised of 70 percent African-Americans, only values black lives if they are wearing a football uniform."

Goodell has said the league isn't blackballing Kaepernick.

Some other players followed Kaepernick's actions last season, and some are doing so in this year's pre-season. On Monday, a group of Cleveland Browns players prayed in silent protest during the national anthem. Among those kneeling was a white player, Seth DeValve. Another white player, Britton Colquitt, did not kneel but kept his hand on the shoulder of a teammate who did.

That protest earned the ire of an Ohio Supreme Court justice, the lone Democrat holding an Ohio statewide office. Justice Bill O'Neill wrote on Facebook that he wouldn't attend any games at which "draft dodging millionaire athletes disrespect the veterans who earned them the right to be on that field."

"Shame on you all," he said.

Hill loses no-hit try on HR in 10th, Pirates top Dodgers 1-0

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Dodgers lefty Rich Hill lost his perfect game on an error in the ninth inning, then lost his no-hitter on a leadoff home run in the 10th by Josh Harrison that sent the Pittsburgh Pirates over Los Angeles 1-0 Wednesday night.

The Pirates didn't have a runner until Jordy Mercer led off the ninth with a sharp grounder that smacked off third baseman Logan Forsythe's glove for an error. Hill retired the next three batters.

Hill (9-5) came back out for the 10th and Harrison sent his 99th pitch of the night into the first row of seats in left field, just out of the reach of left fielder Curtis Granderson. Hill struck out 10 without a walk.

Hill became the first pitcher since Pedro Martinez in 1995 to take a no-hit try into extra innings. Martinez, then with Montreal, lost his perfect game in the 10th at San Diego.

After Mercer reached in the ninth, Hill quickly retired the next three batters. Chris Stewart laid down a sacrifice bunt, Jose Osuna grounded out to Forsythe and when shortstop Corey Seager gobbled up a grounder by Starling Marte, Hill had held the Pirates hitless for nine innings.

Juan Nicasio (2-5) picked up the win after working the top of the 10th.

Orioles 8, Athletics 7, 12 innings

In Baltimore, Zach Britton's AL-record run of converting 60 straight save attempts ended amid the evening shadows of Camden Yards, when the Baltimore closer blew a two-run lead and failed to get out of the ninth inning in a game the Orioles ultimately won in the 12th.

Baltimore led 7-5 heading into the ninth when Britton entered to seal the victory, just as he had been doing successfully since the final days of the 2015 season. On this occasion, however, the left-hander gave up three straight hits before a sacrifice fly by Matt Joyce tied it.

Following a walk to Khris Davis, Britton was replaced by Miguel Castro (3-1), who quelled the uprising.

Manny Machado led off the 12th with a home run off Simon Castro (1-2) to end a game that lasted 4 hours, 20 minutes.

Britton's streak began on Oct. 1, 2015, extended through all of last season and went for 11 more saves this year. He had not blown a save since Sept. 20, 2015, at Tampa Bay.

Britton finished well short of Eric Gagne's major league mark of 84, set from 2002-04.

Astros 6, Nationals 1

In Houston, Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer and Jake Marisnick and Max Stassi added solo shots to help Houston beat Washington.

The victory snaps a nine-game losing streak to the Nationals and is just Houston's second win in the last 15 games against Washington.

Houston starter Mike Fiers (8-8) yielded four hits and one run in seven strong innings to get his first win since July 21. Fiers was in command from the start of this one, looking much better than he had in his last four starts when he allowed a combined 24 hits and 20 runs.

The game was tied at 1 with one out in the fifth when Marisnick sent a curveball from Edwin Jackson (4-3) into left-center field for his 15th homer.

Red Sox 6, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Mitch Moreland hit a fifth-inning home run, and Drew Pomeranz and three relievers beat Corey Kluber.

Moreland homered to right on a 1-0 pitch from Kluber (12-4), who allowed two runs over 7 2/3 innings.

Mookie Betts' RBI single with two outs in the eighth ended the night for Cleveland's ace, who allowed four hits and struck out 12 — the 13th time this season he's reached double figures in strikeouts.

Four pitchers held Cleveland's injury-depleted lineup to three hits, a night after Doug Fister pitched a one-hitter.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-out homer in the eighth off Addison Reed.

Pomeranz (13-4) gave up two hits and struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings in winning his seventh straight decision.

Yankees 10, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Gary Sanchez homered and drove in three runs, and Luis Severino pitched impressively into the seventh inning to lead New York to another lopsided win over Detroit.

Didi Gregorius and Chase Headley also homered for the Yankees, who have taken the first two games of this series by a combined score of 23-6. Severino (11-5) allowed a run and six hits in 6 2/3 innings. He walked one and struck out eight.

Cubs 9, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Kyle Schwarber hit a three-run homer in the ballpark near his home, Tommy La Stella added a two-run shot while subbing for Kris Bryant, and Chicago kept its second-half surge going with a victory over Cincinnati.

The defending World Series champions have won eight of 10. They are 11 games over .500 for the first time this season and have their biggest lead in the NL Central, 3 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee.

Left-hander Mike Montgomery (4-6) allowed four hits in six shutout innings, filling in for Jon Lester in the rotation. Joey Votto, Eugenio Suarez and Scott Schebler homered in the ninth for the Reds.

Mariners 9, Braves 6

In Atlanta, Taylor Motter replaced an injured Robinson Cano and gave Seattle the lead with a two-run single in the eighth inning.

Cano had two doubles before leaving with tightness in his left hamstring in the third.

Kyle Seager added a three-run homer in the eighth inning off Dan Winkler.

After blowing a 4-3 lead in the seventh, the Mariners rallied against Jim Johnson (6-3) in the eighth. Motter's single to center field drove in Jean Segura, who doubled, and Yonder Alonso, who walked.

Blue Jays 7, Rays 6

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Kevin Pillar hit Toronto's sixth home run of the game in the eighth inning, lifting the Blue Jays over Tampa Bay.

Pillar snapped a 6-6 tie with a homer off Tommy Hunter (2-5) to help the Blue Jays end a four-game losing streak. It was Pillar's 13th homer of the season.

Kevin Keirmaier hit two home runs and scored three times for the Rays, who came back from 5-0 down to the tie it before losing for the ninth time in 12 games.

Mets 4, Diamondbacks 2

In New York, Chris Flexen pitched six effective innings, rookie Dominic Smith homered and New York ended a three-game skid. The Mets won for just the second time in 10 games.

Making his sixth big league start, Flexen (3-2) gave up two runs and six hits. He walked four and struck out five.

AJ Ramos worked around a two-out walk for his 23rd save in 25 chances. He has converted all three save opportunities with the Mets.

Zack Godley (5-7) pitched five innings.

White Sox 4, Twins 3

In Chicago, Tim Anderson singled with one out in the ninth inning to score Avisail Garcia from second base and give Chicago a comeback victory.

Chicago tied it at 3 in the eighth on back-to-back one-out doubles by Leury Garcia and Yoan Moncada.

Avisail Garcia led off the ninth with a single and was sacrificed to second. Following an intentional walk to Yolmer Sanchez, Anderson produced the first walk-off hit of his career.

Phillies 8, Marlins 0

In Philadelphia, Mark Leiter Jr. allowed one hit over seven innings, Rhys Hoskins homered and drove in five runs and Philadelphia rode that rookie tandem to a victory over Miami.

Leiter (2-3) didn't allow a hit until Miguel Rojas doubled to lead off the sixth with a hard chopper that bounded over the head of drawn-in third baseman Maikel Franco. He struck out five and walked two to help the Phillies rebound from a doubleheader sweep Tuesday in which the Marlins homered six times while scoring 19 runs.

Giants 4, Brewers 2

In San Francisco, Jarrett Parker hit a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh, Buster Posey hit a sacrifice fly and San Francisco beat contending Milwaukee.

Hunter Strickland (3-3) pitched the seventh for the victory as San Francisco took the series against a Milwaukee club that had hoped to grab some momentum going into a tough weekend ahead on the road against baseball's best Dodgers. The Brewers began the day 2 1/2 games behind the first-place Cubs in the NL Central, having won six of seven games before arriving at AT&T Park.

Royals 6, Rockies 4

In Kansas City, Missouri , Eric Hosmer hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning off former Kansas City teammate Greg Holland, lifting the Royals over Colorado.

Hosmer's 21st home run of the season was the first game-ending shot of his career.

Holland (2-5) fell to 0-4 with one save in four opportunities in his past six games, allowing 10 hits, three home runs and 12 runs over five innings. The former Royals closer issued a leadoff walk in the ninth, gave up a two-out single to Melky Cabrera and then was tagged by Hosmer on a 1-1 pitch.

Brandon Maurer (2-1) pitched the ninth.

Rangers 7, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, Adrian Beltre hit two early homers and the Texas Rangers pushed three runs across in the 10th inning to beat Los Angeles.

Rougned Odor had a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 10th and Robinson Chirinos and Drew Robinson followed with RBI singles off Eduardo Paredes (0-1).

Jose Leclerc walked the first two batters in the Angels 10th, and Tony Barnette relieved. He got Albert Pujols to ground into a double play, gave up an RBI single to Kole Calhoun and finished for his first major league save.

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DCCA, NMSA to hold clinics on Rota

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi, left, supervises a training session in this file photo with some of Saipan's youth players.

Two sports federations under the Northern Marianas Sports Association will be heading to Rota in the coming months to conduct several coaching and officials clinics. The project is in cooperation with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation officer Elias Rangamar and Saipan Baseball League Inc. coordinator Tony Rogolifoi would conduct separate clinics.

DCCA officer Jack Sablan said they teamed up with NMSA to help interested individuals in the CNMI's southernmost island get accreditation and certified as referees and umpires in each sport.

Rangamar will be coming to Rota, together with other MIBF officials, in September where they would also plan to hold the 3x3 preliminaries aside from conducting separate clinics for administrators, referees and table officials.

"We want every game in Rota to be sanctioned by MIBF so we decided to have this clinic in cooperation with DCCA," said Rangamar, who will be on Rota from Sept. 21 to 24.

"While there, we're also going to explain the rules of 3x3 basketball and train them about the game. This would coincide with the Rota 3x3 tournament."

Rogolifoi, on the other hand, is looking at either late September or early October in making the trip to Rota. "I'm still checking on the dates, but for sure I would do certification courses on Rota."

He said that the umpires course, sanctioned and given by the Baseball Confederation of Oceania, is for Level I accreditation. "They would take a different course if they wish to advance and get Level II accreditation."

Rogolifoi would also hold separate baseball clinics to players and coaches, with the latter also getting certified under BCO's standards.

Who's the best puncher? Mayweather says it could surprise

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Floyd Mayweather Jr. says it was the first punch of the fight. His promoter thinks it came during the second round.

One shot to the head, and suddenly Manny Pacquiao decided his night might better be spent fighting on the outside.

"I let him know it's not what you think it is," Mayweather said. "You're not just going to run in there. He felt a strength he didn't expect."

The knock on Mayweather—and the reason some people give Conor McGregor a chance Saturday night—is that he doesn't knock out people. Pacquiao never went down either, but Mayweather showed there are other ways to change a fight than putting a fighter on the canvas.

McGregor may find that out early if he goes after Mayweather at the opening bell as expected. The prevailing theory is that McGregor wins the power battle, but there's more than one fighter with power in this, the most unusual of fights.

"When he gets hit he's going to find out it's totally different," Mayweather said. "The brittle hands, they keep saying that, but when I come across his head he'll find out that it's totally different."

AP

Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and Conor McGregor pose for photographers during a news conference Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, in Las Vegas. The two are scheduled to fight in a boxing match Saturday in Las Vegas.

McGregor doesn't believe that, of course and predicted again Wednesday that the fight would end early with Mayweather on his back.

"I believe one or two rounds, with 8-ounce gloves I don't see him surviving," McGregor said. "I'm starting to think I'll toy with him once he goes down."

The two fighters got together for the final pre-fight press conference to further hype a fight built on hype. In contrast to the bombastic tone of earlier appearances it was a relatively subdued affair at the MGM Grand.

They posed together and didn't come close to exchanging blows. They did both manage to get in a few final words, though.

"It's not going to be easy Conor," Mayweather told his opponent. "I've got a great chin but remember this: The same way you give it you gotta be able to take it."

Though ticket sales have been tepid—largely because of astronomical prices—the pay-per-view is expected to be watched by some 50 million people in the United States alone and millions more worldwide.

It's half-fight, half-spectacle, a bout that matches a UFC star who has never boxed against a masterful ring technician with a record of 49-0. Born of internet hype, it has captured the curiosity of even those outside both sports and could end up being the richest fight ever.

COURSE

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tional Golf Federation board member Andy Balajadia and his team would like to accomplish once they finished with the initial report, which they plan to share with CFGA and management of the five golf courses on Saipan.

"Having a handicap, you can match the different golfers who have different abilities where they can play on an equitable basis. The idea is to see how difficult the golf course is to different types of players," said Balajadia.

Joe James, also a GNGF board member, Jay Huff, and Duke Delisle joined Balajadia in the trip to Saipan. The USGA rating team from Guam arrived on Sunday and immediately went to work by inspecting Laolao Bay's east and west courses.

Balajadia, who is fresh from a USGA course-rating workshop in Florida, said they split into two different teams when they inspected Laolao Bay. They went to MCC and Kingfisher on Monday then COP and SCC last Tuesday.

The group used GPS equipment in looking at the distances of the tees to the greens. "We need to see if the yardages are accurate and each hole must be rated. It is more of a verification on the yardage information the golf course has provided," said Balajadia.

"We've done the first stage of the rating, which is the measurements of each hole of the golf courses. We looked at the yardages, the size of the greens, the speed, and see if it has a lot of contours."

He added that having a rated golf course is an advantage, especially if Saipan would host international events. Golf is one of the sports to be played when Saipan hosts the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"The rating has different uses, but if Saipan would like to host some international events then that is certainly a plus for the golf course. If people would come and play here they want to know if the courses are rated," said Balajadia.

"When you look at the golf course information, not only would they give you the yardages but also the slope and course ratings. Golfers use that information to identify on how they could play the hole."

James thanked the management and staff of the five golf courses they visited. "We are thankful for the assistance they provided to us. We would not have completed our job without their help."

"It is important that they know that we really appreciated everything they have done to accommodate us."

The quartet of golf course raters came to Saipan upon the invitation of CFGA. "They asked if we could help rate the golf courses on Saipan because some have not been rated for many years while others never at all," said Balajadia.

CFGA vice president Ed Manibusan, Laolao Bay operations manager Tony Satur, operations staff Joe Camacho, and local market developer Franco Santos joined Largent, Balajadia, James, Huff, and Delisle.

The Amigos Golf Association, CNMI Women's Golf Association, Marianas Golf Association, Refaluwash Golf Association, Saipan Golf Association, Fil-Taga Golf Association, Korean Golf Association, and the newly formed Marianas Junior Golf Association make up CFGA.

SINCLAIR

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in the main draw to make it to the quarterfinals. He defeated Qatar's Jabor Al-Mutawa in the first round, 6-1, 6-2, and then topped Belgium's Romain Barbosa in the Round of 16, 6-4, 6-2, to move into the quarterfinals. Sinclair then missed a semis entry when he bowed to the host's Christopher Heyman in the Round of 8, 3-6, 4-6.

The 22-year-old Sinclair has been a regular in the Belgium Futures, joining the series of tournaments since last year. In the Belgium F3 Futures held from July 3 to 9, he became the first CNMI player to gain world rankings in the ITF Pro Circuit after winning three matches in the qualifying draw and prevailing in his opening game in the singles main draw. With his successes in Belgium, Sinclair is now ranked No. 1,156 in doubles and No. 1,393 in singles. He got 18 ranking points for his doubles win and two in the singles in the Belgium F8 Futures.

Besides his busy schedule competing in Belgium, Sinclair managed to find time and suit up for Pacific Oceania in the 2017 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III held last month in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He swept his four singles matches, starting the string of victories with a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over Syria's Kareen Al Allaf and following it up with wins over Sri Lanka's Sharmal Dissanayake, 6-4, 6-4; Jordan's Mohammed Almayani, 6-1, 6-0; and Turkemistan's Isa Mammetgulyyev, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Meanwhile, CNMI Junior National Team coach Jeff Race said he was not surprise to see Sinclair excel as the latter has been working hard to improve his game since joining the ITF Pro Circuit in 2012 and competing in Australia, various states in the U.S., and in Belgium. *Saipan Tribune* contacted Sinclair to get comments about his victories in the Davis Cup and in Belgium, but has yet to respond at press time.

NORTH

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Vanuatu's Samuel Strid, 6-2, 6-1, and Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy and Fiji's Shantanu Shail downing the Cook Islands' Elijah Amataiti, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Up 4-2 and needing to sweep the last two girls doubles games to tie North Pacific, East Pacific delivered, thanks to the victories of Tahiti's Naia Guitton and Samoa's Eleanor Schuster and Tonga's Brookie Maassi and Kava Tauva over Vanuatu's Desiree Signo and Daisy Spiti, 6-0, 6-1, and Fiji's Saoirse Breen and Vanuatu's Rosalie Molballeh, 2-6, 6-4, 10-5, respectively.

Meanwhile, North Pacific finished third both in the U14 and U12 divisions.

North Pacific wrapped up round-robin play in the U14 with a 4-12 record after absorbing a 2-6 loss to West Pacific last Wednesday. East Pacific ruled the age group with its 11-5 mark, just two wins ahead of West Pacific (9-7).

East Pacific completed a sweep of the team event as it also prevailed in the U12 division after ending up with a 12-4 record against the 9-7 of the West and 3-13 of the North. East Pacific secured the division title following a 6-2 triumph over North Pacific in the last day of the competition.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	73	53	.579	—
New York	68	57	.544	4½
Baltimore	62	65	.488	11½
Tampa Bay	62	66	.484	12
Toronto	60	66	.476	13

Central Division

Cleveland	69	56	.552	—
Minnesota	65	61	.516	4½
Kansas City	64	61	.512	5
Detroit	54	71	.432	15
Chicago	49	76	.392	20

West Division

Houston	77	49	.611	—
Los Angeles	65	62	.512	12½
Seattle	65	63	.508	13
Texas	63	63	.500	14
Oakland	55	72	.433	22½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	75	49	.605	—
Miami	62	63	.496	13½
Atlanta	56	69	.448	19½
New York	55	70	.440	20½
Philadelphia	46	79	.368	29½

Central Division

Chicago	68	57	.544	—
Milwaukee	66	62	.516	3½
St. Louis	64	62	.508	4½
Pittsburgh	61	66	.480	8
Cincinnati	53	74	.417	16

West Division

Los Angeles	89	36	.712	—
Arizona	69	58	.543	21
Colorado	68	58	.540	21½
San Diego	56	70	.444	33½
San Francisco	52	77	.403	39

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tribes Bar hosts Mayweather-McGregor fight

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fight fans will again be treated to an expected explosive match when Tribes Bar at Century Hotel this Sunday, Aug. 27, hosts the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Conor McGregor mega bout at the T-Mobile Arena in Paradise, Nevada.

Doors open at 9am with the pay-per-view event, dubbed "The Money Fight," beginning to receive the live feed at the same time. Tickets are $40 each and can be bought in advance or at the day of the event itself.

Tribes and Century Hotel operations supervisor Carlos Rivera is inviting all fight fans, whether boxing or mixed martial arts, to buy tickets since they only reserved 50 seats for the super welterweight match.

"We already sold 30 of the 50 tickets, but we can add more depending on the crowd. That's why the sooner you buy the ticket, the better chance to reserve the best seats. This event is for all boxing and MMA fight fans," said Rivera.

Included in the PPV event are pre- and post-fight analyses, a number of undercard bouts, and the post-fight press conference.

He added that the most anticipated match between two flamboyant fighters is a historic event. "This is a major event in combat sports history. If you miss out on this, it won't happen again. People can't produce anything like this ever again."

Rivera is predicting Mayweather winning in the seventh round with McGregor's corner throwing in the towel. "Mayweather could pull through and I'm not a big fan of McGregor. Boxing and MMA analysts believe Mayweather will win. He's undefeated record is also on the line."

"Nobody in boxing is giving McGregor the chance of beating Mayweather. Only his loyal fans are predicting a McGregor victory. However, anything can still happen since he's facing an unpredictable opponent."

Tribes Bar is also teaming up with Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.—Budweiser, Bud Light, Grey Goose, and Bacardi—for the event. Bud gears and other prizes like bar tabs will be raffled off the entire show.

Rivera said he $40 entrance fee is a fair price since they are charging $12 below the original PPV cost. "You will get direct viewing of the fight like a VIP admission."

He added that Tribes Bar will regularly host big fights—MMA or boxing—aside from the Super Bowl, which they have done in the last four years. "Our customers could count on having a good time since there's always a party atmosphere here."

JON PEREZ
Tribes Bar will be showing the pay-per-view non-title fight between undefeated boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Ultimate Fighting Championship lightweight title-holder Conor McGregor on Sunday.

Balakrishna bags July Ace

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Steve Balakrishna bested 14 other golfers to bag the July Ace of the Month of the Saipan Golfers Association held last July 16 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Balakrishna scored a 41 through the first nine holes and capped his performance with a 39 at the back. He had a gross score of 80 and having an 11 handicap, gave him a net of 69 for a two-shot win over Das Krishnan.

Krishnan, also an 11 handicapper, finished with a gross score of 82—42-40—for a 71 net, while Alex Tudela and Frank Castro ended up tied for third place with the former beating the latter after the scorecard tiebreak.

Tudela had rounds of 43 and 39 for an 82 and with a nine handicap, ended up with a 73. Castro's 73 were courtesy of 45 and 42 at the front and back 9s and with a 14 handicap came up with the said score.

Balakrishna joins other SGA monthly Ace winners Frances Sablan (January), John "Nanni" Cruz (February), Juan Lizama (March), Nick Sablan (April), Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (May), and Krishnan (June).

Frances Sablan had the longest drive in No. 2, while Joe Demapan duplicated her feat in No. 11. Deleon Guerrero led the closest to the pin winners in No. 6, while Greg Sablan and Frank Castro had the same results in Nos. 8 and 12, respectively.

SGA's Ace of the Month continues this Sunday, Aug. 27, with its August shootfest at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Show time is at 8:20am and SGA members would tee off after one hour.

JON PEREZ
Steve Balakrishna, seen here in a file photo, won the July Ace of the Month of the Saipan Golfers Association held last July 16 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

MPU off to Japan for Pacific Ocean Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Football Club's co-ed U12 team will leave Saipan next week to compete in the Pacific Ocean Cup VIII in Numazu, Japan.

The team has nine players in Garett and Tori Maratita, Angelo Xu, Yi Sui, Carlo Diaz, Stephanie Kim, Evan Mendiola, Andrew Chung, and Ian Song and they will go up against host Vivid Blue and other U12 squads in Numazu. Completing the IT&E-sponsored quad are coaches Gene Weaver and Alex Park and official Lydia Tan.

The Pacific Ocean Cup is a tournament created by sister clubs MP United and Vivid Blue and is held twice a year with the two groups alternately hosting the competition. Last April, MP United Blue won the Pacific Ocean Cup VII after beating Paire FC in the finals, 4-0, while the visiting Vivid Blue finished third. The biannual event also features cultural exchange program between MP United and Vivid Blue.

MP United players seeing action in next month's Pacific Ocean Cup VIII are among the club's more than 100 members who are preparing for the 2017 NMIFA Youth Fall League that will kick off on Sept. 16. They are part of MP United's two U12 teams (competitive and non-competitive), while the club will also field a U8, U10, girls U15, and boys U14 and U17 squads in next month's fall league. MP United has a U6 team, too and it is accepting players who want to suit up for the club's grassroots squad.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki, left, collides with Paire FC's Dylan Mister as they battle for the ball during the Pacific Ocean Cup VII held at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last April. MP United's U12 team will go to Japan next week to play in the Pacific Ocean Cup VIII.

"MP United FC is the only club in the CNMI that regularly travels off-island to compete in tournaments. As a club, we try our best to send an age group every year to compete and have them experience other cultures. This fall, our U12 team will be traveling to Japan to compete in Pacific Ocean Cup, which is hosted by our sister club Vivid Blue. In the past years, our club had also traveled to Guam and the Philippines," MP United vice president and technical director Norman Del Rosario said.

"MP United FC is a family oriented club and everyone who will be a part of the club is considered as a family not only in the field but also off the field. For the higher age groups, our club works side by side with our student-athletes. We emphasize how important it is to get an education for their future. If we know a player that has the potential to play college sports, we encourage them and assist them in their needs," he added.

Meanwhile, MP United general secretary Ana Hilario said MP United players will return to practice next week at the Garapan Elementary School and Navy Hill fields and schedule of training sessions per age group is being finalized.

Besides Hilario and Del Rosario, other officials of MP United are president Vickie Izuka, vice president Lydia Tan, and treasurer Rose Soledad.

Underdog Isaiah Thomas facing biggest challenge of career

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Sinclair gets first pro title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI junior player Colin Sinclair earned his first pro championships after ruling the doubles event in the Belgium F8 Futures held early this month in Eupen, Belgium.

Sinclair, who was born and raised on Saipan and made his mark in local tennis in the early 2000s, partnered with Great Britain's Charles Broom in topping the 16-team tournament under the ITF Pro Circuit (European). The unranked Sinclair and Broom completed their stunning show in the clay court competition that offered $15,000 in prize money after beating No. 1 seed Tom Schonenberg of Germany and Colin Van Beem of the Netherlands in the finals, 4-6, 6-1, 10-5.

OCEANIA TENNIS
Former CNMI junior player Colin Sinclair, second left, joins his Pacific Oceania teammates and captain for a group photo during the opening ceremony for the 2017 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III held last month in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Before outlasting their foes in a super-tiebreaker third set, Sinclair and Broom needed only two sets each to eliminate their first three opponents. In the opening round, the CNMI-Great Britain pair pulled off an upset over No. 3 and Australia's Adam and Jason Taylor, 6-2, 7-6 (5). Sinclair and Broom were then pitted against the unranked Billy Harris of Great Britain and Mateausz Terczynski of Poland and won, 6-2, 6-4, to march into the semifinals. In the battle for the finals berth at the lower half of the draw, Sinclair and his partner stunned another seeded duo in the Netherland's Gijs Brouwer and Jelle Sels, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

The former CNMI junior player and his British partner eventually kept their winning run in the Belgium F8 Futures as they bounced back from an opening set loss to Schonenberg and Van Beem by sweeping the last two.

Sinclair also joined the singles event of the tournament and won his first two matches

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North Pacific U16 settles for runner-up honors

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Richard Steele joins his fellow CNMI players in warming up for the games in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships Team Event last Monday in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

North Pacific lost in a tiebreaker to East Pacific in the U16 division contest of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships Team Event last Wednesday in Fiji.

East Pacific defeated West, 6-2, in the final game in the team event to finish the round-robin contest with a 9-7 record, the same mark that the CNMI-led North Pacific posted after a 4-4 standoff against West Pacific and a 5-3 victory over East Pacific. East Pacific ended up nosing out North Pacific for the age group championship with its 20-15 sets won/loss record against the latter's 19-17.

East Pacific grabbed the U16 title from North Pacific as the former won three of its last five games against West. East first raced to a 3-0 advantage before West Pacific won the last singles play, courtesy of the victory of Vanuatu's Marlin Hannam against Tahiti's Hirinaki Lo, 6-4, 6-3.

Then in the doubles, East and West split the first two with the Tahiti pair of Jeremy Guines and Lo beating Tuvalu's Gavin Moliti and

See NORTH on Page 30

'Course rating for handicap purposes'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Federation of Golf Associations president David Largent said having the golf courses on Saipan rated under United States Golf Association standards would level the playing field in terms of the potential ability of each golfer.

Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, Kingfisher Golf Links, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Marianas Country Club, and the Saipan Country Club are the five golf courses on Saipan. SCC is a nine-hole golf course, but management plans to turn it into an 18-hole facility in the future.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guam National Golf Federation board member Andy Balajadia, far right, takes some notes after inspecting one of the holes at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Largent, who joined the four-person team of course raters from Guam yesterday, said handicapping purposes is one reason why they wanted Saipan's golf courses receive professional ratings under the United States Golf Association standards.

"It levels the playing field. If I have a higher handicap and I'm playing against someone who has a lower handicap and if that person played within the average level then I have a better chance of beating him," said Largent.

The golf handicap, which measures the ability of players, allows golfers who have different skills to play against each other on equal terms.

And that is what Guam Na-

See COURSE on Page 30